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International Conference on Disarmament Held in Kyoto

UN Disarmament Chief on Asian Problems

OW1304032793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0239 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Kyoto, April 13 KYODO—U.N. Disarmament chief Prvoslav Davinic said Tuesday [13 April] that "in a perverse way" the end of Cold War tensions has led to a new dimension of instability in the world, specifically in the Asia-Pacific region. Davinic remarked that one of the tasks of a four-day conference that started here Tuesday is to consider methods for developing a systematic multilateral approach to deal with unresolved problems in the region.

These include territorial and border disputes, internal conflicts, and nonmilitary issues of smuggling and refugees, said the director of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs at the Kyoto International Conference Hall. The conference, "Disarmament and National Security in the Interdependent World," is the third to be hosted by Kyoto in five years and brings together about 90 ranking government officials, academics, arms control specialists and politicians from 37 nations.

North Korea, which attended each previous conference, is notably absent for the first time. It announced a decision March 12 to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). Pyongyang pulled out after refusing demands by the International Atomic Energy Agency for special inspections of two suspected nuclear facilities north of the North Korean capital.

In his address, Davinic cited activities by the U.N. office in Kathmandu as an example of dealing with the Asia-Pacific region's disarmament affairs. The Kathmandu office provide a forum of regional meetings for discussing the area's issues of arms control, disarmament and security, he said. Other problems facing the post-Cold War world include ethnic tensions like those in Yugoslavia, and the breakup of the former Soviet Union, which makes the implementation of disarmament agreements more difficult.

In another address, Japanese Parliamentary Vice Minister Koji Kakizawa urged North Korea to retract its decision to pull out of the NPT and said Japan will work for an extension of the accord when it comes up for renewal in 1995. Kakizawa also called on Asian nations that are developing the capability to sell weapons and related items to establish an effective export control system, underlining Tokyo's position that development aid considerations includes attention to a nation's development and production of weapons and missiles. Delegates include Stoyan Ganev, president of the U.N. General Assembly, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

UN Meeting Focuses on DPRK Withdrawl

OW1604094693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0940 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Kyoto, April 16 KYODO—A United Nations disarmament conference on Friday [16 April] discussed efforts to persuade North Korea to change its decision to quit an international nuclear control pact. North Korea's decision to quit the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) was the focus of debate by a working group on the final day of the four-day conference in Kyoto.

The head of the working group, Kevin Clements of Australian National University's Peace Research Center, said many delegates urged continued dialogue with Pyongyang to persuade it to stay in the treaty. North Korea gave the required three months notice that it will quit the treaty on March 12 after refusing to allow international inspections at Yongbyon, 100 kilometers northeast of Pyongyang. It rejected suggestions by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it is developing nuclear weapons there.

Calling Pyongyang's decision "a litmus test of the integrity of the NPT," Clements said sanctions against it by the U.N. Security Council would be "ill-advised at the moment." He said the international community must try to talk Pyongyang into staying within the nuclear accord through negotiations.

Prvoslav Davinic, director of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, voiced concern about Pyongyang's withdrawal from the pact, saying, "it is my fervent hope that ways and means can be found to persuade North Korea to change course in the interests of its own security and those of its regional neighbors." He vowed further efforts by the UN to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In a separate session on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons through effective international control, many participants backed an indefinite extension of the treaty, which is due to expire in 1995. Reporting on that session, Steven Miller, a professor of international affairs at Harvard University, said they also cited difficulties in doing so, including diverging views among nuclear haves and have-nots and among NPT member and nonmember states.

Some reportedly said there are countries staying out of the NPT because they do not want to accept nuclear inspections by the Vienna-based IAEA. The accord, which took effect in 1970, is aimed at halting the spread of nuclear weapons and technologies. Signatories must decide by 1995 whether to extend it indefinitely or for limited periods.

The conference, "disarmament and national security in the interdependent world," is the fifth to be hosted in Japan and the third in Kyoto. Previous meetings took place in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, in 1990 and Hiroshima in 1992. The Kyoto conference brought together nearly 90 senior government officials, politicians, academics and arms control experts from 37 countries, primarily from the Asia-Pacific region.

Among them were Stoyan Ganev, president of the UN General Assembly, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Japan's disarmament ambassador Yoshitomo Tanaka. There were no delegates from North Korea, which attended each previous conference. The forum allows delegates to discuss disarmament issues without adopting resolutions or making appeals. But the role of the meeting was not to "get together" but to focus on various aspects of "positive and tentatively negative problems," Davinic said.

UN Envoy Suggests Disarmament Group

OW1604100993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0948 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—A high-ranking United Nations official on Friday [16 April] suggested the creation of an intercontinental organization linking the Asia-Pacific region with Europe and North America to promote disarmament. Vladimir Petrovskiy, newly appointed director general of the UN office in Geneva, said that Japan's participation in such a disarmament group is crucial for its success.

"This kind of organization should be open and interrelated," he explained in an interview. "And the participation of Japan is of tremendous importance because it provides the link with the Pacific region." Petrovskiy, a former UN undersecretary general for political affairs, made the remarks after attending a UN Disarmament conference in Kyoto as emissary of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

The idea of an intercontinental disarmament organization, he said, stems in part from Japan's participation in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and is part of UN "Preventive diplomacy." But in the short run, Petrovskiy said, some disarmament specialists are interested in closer ties between existing European institutions and Asia-Pacific groups such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. Petrovskiy, a former first deputy foreign minister of the now defunct Soviet Union, said members of the world community face what he called "post-disarmament agreement (PDA) problems," such as the transportation, storage and destruction of nuclear weapons and other weapons and the retraining of demilitarized armies.

Japan

Reportage on U.S. Summit Talks Continues

'Gist' of Miyazawa-Clinton Talks

OW1704011993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0045 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 16 KYODO—Following is the gist of the summit between Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton on Friday.

—The two countries agreed on the establishment of a new global partnership.

—They agreed to hold bilateral summits once a year on top of the summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized countries.

—They agreed to set up a comprehensive economic consulting organization within next three months.

—Clinton evaluates highly the yen's recent rise against the U.S. dollar.

—The U.S. expressed concerns over expansion of Japan's trade surplus and demanded the opening of its markets.

—Japan insisted it is hard to accept the comprehensive tariffication system sought in multinational trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

—Japan expressed concern over a perceived U.S. shift to managed trade and taking unilateral measures.

Clinton Invites Emperor for Visit

OW1604220093 Tokyo KYODO in English 2130 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 16 KYODO—U.S. President Bill Clinton on Friday invited Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to visit the United States, a Japanese spokesman said. Motoji Kondo, deputy chief cabinet secretary, told reporters Clinton extended the invitation during his summit Friday with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Miyazawa accepted the invitation on behalf of the Japanese imperial couple, Kondo said. No date was set for the visit.

"We don't know whether it will be this year or next year," Kondo said.

Miyazawa Supports MFN for PRC

OW1604221393 Tokyo KYODO in English 2205 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 16 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa urged the United States on Friday to extend China's most-favored-nation (MFN) trade status without attaching any conditions. Japanese officials said Miyazawa made the case for China in his summit with President Bill Clinton.

Miyazawa said MFN status is important not only for China's own trade relations with the U.S., but also for the well-being and prosperity of Hong Kong, a Japanese official said.

The Clinton administration has until June to notify Congress whether it will set certain conditions in renewing China's MFN status, a measure which allows it to enjoy the lowest import tariffs the U.S. grants to its trade partners.

Clinton administration officials have criticized China's human rights record and complained about Chinese sales of advanced military technology to third world countries. The U.S. has also criticized Chinese trade practices.

Democrats on Capitol Hill have favored linking these three areas to China's MFN status, a move Clinton himself supported while running for the presidency. Clinton reiterated it is important China improves its human rights record, Japanese officials said.

Miyazawa also reminded Clinton that China's cooperation is essential in convincing North Korea to return to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. North Korea announced last month that it was quitting the pact, prompting international concern it is determined to develop its own nuclear arms program.

Miyazawa-Clinton News Conference

OW1704010493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0018 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 16 KYODO—Following are the text of press remarks Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton delivered Friday following their summit meeting.

President Bill Clinton: Good afternoon. I'm delighted to welcome Prime Minister Miyazawa to Washington and the White House. I especially appreciate his making this very long journey so soon after he hosted the foreign and finance ministers of the G-7 in Tokyo and discussing aid to Russia.

There is no more important relationship for the United States than our alliance with Japan. We are the world's largest economies with 40 percent of the world's GNP between us.

Our security ties have fostered a generation of peace in the Asia Pacific region, and remain critical to the region's continued stability and prosperity.

As we survey the key security challenges of this decade, supporting reform in Russia, advancing the Middle East peace process, efforts toward reconciliation and peacekeeping from Somalia to Cambodia, it is clear that there must be sustained cooperation between the United States and Japan.

To help us meet these challenges I have stressed with the prime minister the need for some change in our relations.

The cold war partnership between our two countries is outdated. We need a new partnership based on a longer-term vision, and above all based on mutual respect and responsibility.

There have always been three elements to our relationship with Japan. Our economic dealings, our security alliance and our cooperative efforts on global problems.

Each is essential to our relationship and each must serve our mutual self-interests. But during the cold war security relations often overshadowed other considerations, especially economic concerns.

In today's world, as I have often said, the United States cannot be strong abroad unless it is strong at home.

And our strength at home depends increasingly on open and equitable engagement with our major trading partners. That requires that we now pay special attention to the economic side of our relationship.

Our security partnership is strong. That relationship has been an anchor for Pacific stability for two generations. It remains fundamental to both our interests. The United States intends to remain fully engaged in Asia and committed to our strategic alliance, and our political partnership with Japan.

The prime minister and I discussed a range of security matters in the Pacific region that concern both of us, including efforts to gain the fullest possible accounting of our POW's and MIA's in Vietnam and North Korea's refusal to comply with the international nuclear inspections and standards, which causes us serious concern.

Because of the importance of our security relationship we will maintain close working ties between our two defenses and I'm pleased that the prime minister will be meeting later today with Defense Secretary Les Aspin.

We also reviewed many global issues that challenged both our nations. In particular we talked about the extraordinary meeting of G-7 foreign and finance ministers just completed in Tokyo to provide mutual support for Russian economic and democratic reforms.

I appreciate the prime minister's leadership in convening that meeting. We agreed that the success of these reforms is critical to world peace and prosperity.

I believe both our nations understand the stakes and stand ready to work in partnership with President Yeltsin and Russia's other reformers.

We look forward to the G-7 summit this July in Tokyo and to Russian participation in the G-7 plus meeting. But economics were at the heart of our discussions. I stressed that the rebalancing of our relationship in this new era requires an elevated attention to our economic relations that must begin with an honest appraisal of each country and our mutual responsibilities.

The fact is that I have enormous admiration for Japan's economic performance. The Japanese have been pioneers in high quality manufacturing. Their record of innovation and prosperity has been built on hard work and social cooperation.

But we and many other countries have other concerns, as well. I stressed to the prime minister that I'm particularly concerned about Japan's growing global current account and trade surpluses and deeply concerned about the inadequate market access for American firms, products and investors in Japan.

I recognize that these are complex issues, but the simple fact is that it is harder to sell in Japan's market than in ours. America is accepting the challenge of change and so too must Japan. For our part, the United States is making economic renewal over the long term our highest priority, and we are now making the hard decisions, many of our trading partners have urged us for years to make, required to put our economic house in order. Our good friends, like Japan, for some time have urged us to do this and we are attempting to do it—bringing down our deficit through a combination of spending cuts and tax increases and committing ourselves to long-term investment.

It is important that Japan lead the way to global economic growth. The prime minister's newly announced stimulus program is a very good first step towards stronger domestic growth in Japan. But as in America, it must be part of a continued and sustained effort. Japan's goal must be to become one of the engines of growth not only in Japan but throughout the world.

In addition, the prime minister and I reaffirmed our commitment to lead the Uruguay Round to an early and successful conclusion. We are committed to make the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization, a vehicle for trade liberalization in the region. And I look forward to the United States hosting that organization in Seattle later this year.

Robust economic growth in America and Japan is in everyone's interest. That's why I hope our own Congress will pass our jobs package and the budget, just as I hope Japan will continue taking steps to boost its own economic growth.

But macroeconomic action alone is not enough. I'm concerned not only about how much we sell but about what we sell. Our companies that manufacture high quality, high wage goods are among the most competitive in the world. If their products are to be a greater part of our exports to Japan, if our workers are to receive their fair share of the benefits of trade, Japan's markets must be more open. United States companies bear the responsibility for providing high quality and competitively priced goods, but when they do, as increasingly they do today, Japan's markets must receive them.

When our two nations take these economic steps individually and together, we will be the two strongest drivers of global economic growth. That growth is essential not only for our own prosperity but also for the success of the world's many new and emerging democracies. In order to take these steps we also need to develop a new framework for our two nations to address concretely our economic agenda, the structural and sectoral issues that can expand growth and increase trade and investment flows in key industries.

This framework should also enable us to discuss other issues in which we can cooperate such as technology and the environment.

Within the next three months the prime minister and I expect to have a plan for specific negotiations that can then occur on an expedited basis in these areas.

The prime minister and I also agreed to meet twice annually, including during the G-7 annual summit. We have agreed to do this because we believe this new partnership deserves our highest priority, from the highest levels of our government.

I view today's discussion with the prime minister as a very positive step in our effort to begin a new and mutually beneficial stage in the long and productive friendship between the United States and Japan.

Each spring all who reside here in the nation's capital have a wonderful reminder of that friendship. Just blocks from here at the tidal basin, the circle of flowering cherry trees, begun as a gift from the people of Japan, are the uplifting image that defines the start of our season of hope. Today I believe the new partnership we are forging between our nations can help to usher in a season of hope not only for ourselves, but for the world as well. A season when we restore economic growth, when we expand economic opportunities in our own countries and elsewhere, when we help to fuel the worldwide movement toward democracy.

And when we help to lay the foundation for peace and progress in the next century. I look forward to working with Prime Minister Miyazawa in the coming months as we join together to build that new partnership.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa: Mr. President, thank you for your kind words and thank you also for your very welcome today. I have been looking forward to this important meeting. May I say that I have a sense of accomplishment in that we have built a personal relationship of mutual trust. I am convinced that our new partnership can respond to the needs of a new era. Our partnership is crucial for making the world more peaceful and prosperous. The president and I have therefore agreed to meet at least once every year separate from the G-7 process.

Let me comment briefly on four areas of our discussions today. First, we affirmed the continuing importance of Japan-U.S. security treaty in the post-cold war era.

Second, on the economy, I welcome the president's leadership in tackling the budget deficit problem head-on. On our part, Japan's new '93 fiscal budget is geared to stimulating domestic demand. And three days ago, my government decided on an additional package of expansionary measures totalling 116 billion dollars to further stimulate our domestic demand. This will certainly accelerate our economic growth.

I also stressed our continuing efforts to increase market access. I further explained to the president that my government has decided to undertake a new funds-for-development initiative to facilitate financial flow from Japan to developing countries.

These respective efforts by both Japan and the United States are critically important for ensuring world economic growth. They are also vital for strengthening the foundation of our partnership.

In the area of our bilateral trade and economic relations, I stressed to the president that our economic prosperity is founded on our deep economic interdependence. We must nurture this relationship with a cooperative spirit based upon the principle of free trade. This cannot be realized with managed trade nor under the threat of unilateralism. Our relationship must be a plus-sum relationship, not a zero-sum one.

It is in this context that I expressed seriously some concern over some trends in the United States. I explained my government's policy to continue efforts to increase our market access. But this must be done with parallel efforts of the United States to strengthen competitiveness, export promotion under the free trade system.

On the Uruguay Round negotiations, we cannot allow them to fail, and after seven years, we must reach a realistic agreement through further negotiations.

Recognizing the importance of advancing our new economic partnership, we need to develop a new framework for our two nations to address the structural and sectoral issues of both countries that can promote trade and investment flows in key industries as well as enhance our cooperation in such areas as environment, technology and development of human resources.

Within the next three months, the president and I expect to create such a new framework.

Third, on Russia, Japan chaired the meeting of foreign and finance ministers of G-7 countries, subsequently joined by the Russian ministers, which ended yesterday in Tokyo. I cooperated closely with President Clinton on the preparations for this meeting, talking over the phone a few times.

I believe the joint ministerial meeting sent a strong message of support for Russia's efforts for democratic and economic reform, and its law and justice foreign policy. At the opening session of that meeting, I announced a one billion, 820 million dollars package of Japan's bilateral assistance to Russia.

Today the president and I discussed how we should follow up, and build on the results, of that meeting, as Russia undergoes a delicate period of transition.

Fourth, the dynamic growth of Asia Pacific region promises benefits for the entire world, but we must bear in mind that the region is undergoing changes with risks and instabilities.

American presence in Japan-U.S. Security Treaty are indispensable stabilizing elements for the region. I assured the president that Japan will continue to provide host-nation support which amounts to 4 billion, 600 million dollars in the year 1993.

Japan will also work together with the United States to build more cohesiveness and the feeling of reassurance through regional dialogue and cooperation.

Finally, let me make a personal observation. For half a century I have been involved in our bilateral relations in one way or another.

Now, talking to the youthful, new leader of this great nation who has emerged at a historic time of changes in the world, I felt optimism for the unbounded possibilities of our two nations working together in our new partnership to bring a better world for all of us.

Thank you very much.

Reaction to Miyazawa-Clinton Summit Reported

Clinton Yen Remarks Worry BOJ

OW1704024793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0236 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) is uneasy about U.S. President Bill Clinton's remarks supporting a strong yen as a way of trimming the trade gap with Japan, fearing it could drive the yen further up and harm Japanese industry, BOJ sources said Saturday.

Central bank officials were perplexed over whether Clinton on Friday in Washington endorsed the recent upsurge of the yen or a longer-term rise in the currency.

"We don't know which he meant," a ranking BOJ official said.

Clinton, at a press conference after his summit with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, said the yen's appreciation against the dollar should help reduce Japan's trade surplus.

His comments sent the dollar spiraling down to a new historic intraday low of 112.10 yen in New York trading. The dollar finished at 112.15-25 yen, a new postwar low on a closing basis, down 0.95 yen from Thursday's close and compared with 112.50-60 yen in London and 112.95 yen in Tokyo on Friday.

A BOJ source said New York investors seemed to interpret the president's remarks as a general view, rather than a specific opinion on the recent movements in the currency markets. "This is underscored by the fact that the yen failed to jump into the 111 yen range in New York," the source said.

However, some investors in Tokyo believe Clinton made it clear he desires a higher yen, making chances slimmer that overseas monetary authorities will join the BOJ's efforts to stem a further high-pitched advance of the Japanese currency.

Official 'Alarmed' by Trade Policy

OW1704044793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0412 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Saturday voiced misgivings about a suggested new U.S. trade policy with Japan oriented more in visible, measurable results.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, emerging from summit talks with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Friday, told reporters that he wants "specific results" on specific sectors of the economy in boosting U.S. exports to Japan.

Commenting on the remarks, a Foreign Ministry source said, "If we set numerical targets, the figures will be immediately regarded as pledges. And if we fail to achieve them, it would worsen trade relations between the two nations."

The two nations have clashed in the past over what Japan call "targets" on its imports of U.S. semiconductors and cars, which Washington regards as promises to be steadfastly fulfilled.

A high-ranking official at the ministry viewed Clinton's remarks as reflecting his "business-like" approach on trade matters. "He will use whatever measures there are to revive the U.S. economy, which is the top priority task for his government," he said.

The official said the president may criticize Tokyo if the Japan's latest economic stimulus package, worth 13.2 trillion yen, fails to quickly show its effects on the economy.

The official, who asked not to be named, was also alarmed by Clinton's stance supporting a stronger yen as a way of slimming the U.S. trade deficit with Japan. He said a higher yen will translate into bloated dollar-based Japanese surplus over the short term, which may encourage the U.S. to add to pressure on Japan.

Business Circles React to Results

OW1704085093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 17 KYODO—The Japanese business community on Saturday gave mixed reactions to the summit talks on Friday [16 April] between Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton. While some hailed it as cementing bilateral relationships, many guarded against increased pressure from Washington on bilateral trade disputes.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the nation's most powerful business lobby, the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), is one of the few business leaders optimistic about the future of the bilateral ties. He praised the event as "successfully establishing a firm relationship of cooperation and mutual trust between the two nations."

But most others are wary of a new U.S. trade policy oriented more toward results Clinton repeatedly suggested in the talks.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said, "it became clear that the U.S. Government focuses on specific sectors and measurable results."

Miyazawa and Clinton agreed to form a new framework for resolving bilateral trade disputes, but Clinton wants to make it one which can bring about more visible results, like the bilateral semiconductor pact which specifies a 20 percent foreign-chip market share in Japan as a goal the U.S. industry wanted to be reached by the end of last year.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, criticized Clinton's stance on trade as "running against the spirit of free trade."

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), also sounded alarmed, saying, "the U.S. will become more tilted toward managed trade if we fail to produce concrete progress (on trade disputes)."

On Clinton's remarks favoring a stronger yen, Ishikawa pleaded for the government's "appropriate actions" when the yen rises further, indicating yen-selling interventions by the monetary authorities.

Newspapers Criticize Clinton

OW1804054893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0515 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 KYODO—Japanese dailies on Sunday criticized U.S. President Bill Clinton for demanding "results" in U.S.-Japan trade policy but supported the idea that Japan must expand domestic demand for imported goods.

Sunday's editorials echoed the sentiments of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who told a Washington news conference Friday that smooth U.S.-Japan relations "cannot be realized with managed trade, nor under the threat of unilateralism."

Clinton and Miyazawa, meeting for the first time since the U.S. president took office on January 20, agreed to draw up a plan on negotiations within three months to reduce America's 49 billion dollar trade deficit with Japan. But Miyazawa, stressing the principle of free trade, rejected the idea that specific targets for market shares in certain trade sectors be imposed.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN on Sunday said it approved of Clinton's demands for a stronger yen, expanded domestic demand in Japan, and market liberalization as policies to narrow the trade imbalance.

The mass circulation daily added, however, that it was "going too far" for the United States to press Japan for promises in reaching concrete results.

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN also criticized Clinton's demands for a managed trade policy, saying private citizens purchase foreign products and that it is unreasonable for the government to dictate what they should buy. The YOMIURI pointed out that U.S. exports to Japan have grown steadily since 1986 to 52 billion dollars last year and is the leading market abroad for U.S agricultural products. It called for an "objective analysis" of Japanese markets and an end to remarks that they are "closed."

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN also remarked that the Clinton administration's demands for a gauge to measure the results of Japan's market liberalization arises from a belief that there are "invisible barriers" to Japanese markets. It warned that if Japan agrees to this approach with the United States it will face a "vicious circle" of managed trade and protectionism with the European Community and other Asian nations.

In the pending bilateral trade negotiations with the United States, Japan must not recognize specific market share targets "for the sake of protecting free trade in the world," the MAINICHI said.

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said the demands "appear to be a bit unreasonable," but warned that if the American economy fails to recover, it would have a major effect on the stability of the world and Japan must consider what it can do. The financial daily said that Japan must narrow the trade imbalance by making efforts to open its markets and must enter the coming negotiations with a long-term view.

The YOMIURI stressed that even if Japan rejects the idea of setting targets, it should continue its efforts to stimulate domestic demand for imports. It said the Japanese public would rejoice when Japan's economic strength is used to improve social conditions such as housing, shorter working hours, and suppressing excessive business competition.

U.S. 'Responding Emotionally' to Surpluses

OW1604054593 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1027 GMT 13 Apr 93

[From "News 7" program]

[Text] How does the United States see Japan's ever-growing trade surpluses? Here is a report from Washington by our reporter, Haruyuki Oshima.

[Begin recording] [Oshima] The United States has been responding emotionally every day to Japan's rapidly growing trade surpluses. It used to be generally recognized that trade imbalances should not be an issue to be dealt with only between our two nations; however, such a view has disappeared. There is now a view prevalent among the general public that indicates an impatient demand that Japan must take actions one way or another. The major issue lies in unemployment. Despite the fact that the U.S. economy has now begun to pick up, the unemployment rate has failed to improve, and this has given impetus to the argument that imports from Japan are taking jobs away from Americans.

[Professor Lester Sarow of the Massachussettes Institute of Technology; in English, with Japanese translation in subtitles; remarks rendered from the English] A year from now, it's going to be $200 billion. Well, $200 billion represents four and half million jobs lost in the rest of the world at American levels of productivity. And so what Japan is doing is sucking enormous amounts of aggregated demand out of the rest of the world. And it doesn't make any difference whether Japan got it because everybody worked hard and developed good products, or Japan got it because they kept imports out of Japan. The problem is the rest of the world can't afford to have that kind of deficit with Japan.

[Oshima] The problem lies in Japan's unreasonable principle of trying to be the sole winner all the time. The fact that a world-famous economist has made these remarks with a serious look indicates how serious a political problem the issue of Japan's trade surpluses has come to be viewed in the United States. Professor Sarow, who has a great influence upon the Clinton administration, is very pessimistic about the future economic relationship between Japan and the United States.

[Sarow] I think where they're apt to come out is for six months to a year. They will work very hard to do some of these things on a cooperative basis. At the begining, I think they... [corrects himself] the Clinton administration will try and solve it on a cooperative basis with Japan. But if they can't get it solved that way, then they are going to have to do something on a more unilateral basis. [end recording]

At the Japanese-U.S. summit talks scheduled for 16 April, the Japanese Government plans to explain pump-priming package measures, which were decided today, and ask for U.S. understanding on Japan's efforts to cut trade surpluses by increasing domestic demands.

Muto: U.S. Firms Share Blame for Deficit

OW1804084593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture, April 18 KYODO—Foreign Minister Kabun Muto said Sunday that American businesses that have invested abroad share responsibility with Japan for the U.S. trade deficit. "The U.S. trade deficit is not necessarily a result of Japan...there are also a lot of imports that are manufactured overseas at facilities built with American funds," Muto told a seminar for women supporters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Muto expressed cautious optimism that the United States will overcome its economic problems.

Noting that Japan helps the U.S. finance its federal deficit by purchasing a substantial volume of U.S. Treasury securities, Muto said, "America has a lot of resources, so I believe it can renew itself."

LDP Executive Council Chairman Koko Sato told participants at the opening of an annual three-day seminar that Japan must become accustomed to being the "top runner" in the world economic arena. "The top runner has to make its own decisions, it's different from being the second runner," Sato told the LDP gathering of 230 women from across the country.

"Japan is now being asked if it has awakened to the fact that it is the top runner. We have to think about this," Sato told the seminar at this seaside resort town.

But he asserted that on aid to Russia, Japan's concerns and analysis differ from those of other major industrialized nations.

"The United States and Europe say that it will be dangerous if Russian President Boris Yeltsin falls, but we see things differently...and there is absolutely no reason why we should imitate them," Sato said.

"If Yeltsin falls, I don't think that Russia will revert to socia [redacted] *ot* accept the view that the world will be turned upside down without Yeltsin," Sato said.

Japan puts more weight on the continuation of reforms, rather than the particular leader in power, Sato said. He attributed the different stance taken by Japan and major Western powers to cultural differences.

The emphasis here is on "organization" and group leadership, while Western nations attach greater weight to individuals, Sato said.

He won a round of applause when he said that Japan would remain steadfast on its demand for a resolution to a longstanding territorial dispute with Russia.

A second round of applause erupted when Sato expressed opposition to offering Russia unlimited economic assistance without first winning back four islands off Hokkaido that were seized by the Soviet Army at the close of World War II. His comments come days after Japan, relaxing its stand toward Russia, made available 1.8 billion dollars worth of loans and grants as part of an effort by the Group of Seven (G-7) nations to give support to Yeltsin in advance of an April 25 referendum on his leadership.

Sato, saying it is highly unlikely general elections will be held in early summer, hinted that the LDP favors a November poll. The prime minister must call general elections by February 1994.

Dollar's Low Close 'Knocked Down' by Clinton

OW1904074293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0736 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—The U.S. dollar closed at a record low of 111.00 yen on the Tokyo foreign exchange market Monday, knocked down by U.S. President Bill Clinton's call for a higher yen after his meeting with Japan's Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in Washington on Friday. Clinton's comment that a rise in the yen would help reduce the U.S. trade deficit came as a surprise to the market, since more vague terms on foreign exchange rates had largely been expected.

The dollar once touched an intraday low of 110.70 yen. The closing rate was down a sharp 1.95 yen from Friday's close of 112.95 yen and down 0.65 yen from its opening rate of of 111.65 yen. It compared with late Friday qutoes of 112.15-25 yen in New York and and 112.50-60 yen in london.

Clinton's endorsement of a stronger yen as a means of adressing the trade imbalance between the United States and Japan gave the force the market needed to kick the dollar lower.

"Any reservations some players might have had last week about the ability to actively test the dollar's downtrend were shaken off," a Trust Bank dealer said. "With [illegible] giving us such a clear-cut message, we have no choice but to go down." Speculative dollar selling could mount in overseas markets, the dealer said.

He and other dealers said that a break below 110 yen to as low as 108 yen is possible soon. "Such a fall is likely this week, particularly if exporting companies decide they can't wait any longer and join in the selling," said a commercial bank dealer.

Dealers said little attention was paid to rumored Bank of Japan dollar-buying interventions between 110.70 yen and 111.30 yen which was said to have come "sporadically without impact" during both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Views are strong in the market that other industrialized countries will be cool toward Japan's hopes for a coordinated market intervention to arrest the yen's rise, dealers said.

A dealer at Asahi Bank noted that the BOJ dollar purchases at least succeeded in creating some cautiousness about pushing the dollar far below 111 yen, however. "I hate to think to what new territory the dollar might have plunged if the central bank hadn't intervened," the dealer said.

A few dealers suggested that further downward probes in the dollar might begin to recede soon. "Perceptions could grow that the 110 yen level will be a firm barrier to break through," a dealer at Sakura Bank said.

During the day, the dollar traded between 110.70 yen and 111.65 yen, compared with last Friday's 112.92-113.25 yen range, with the most frequently traded rate at 111.00 yen, compared with the previous trading day's 113.10 yen. Spot trading volume came to 11,132 million dollars compared with Friday's 4,588 million dollars while swap transactions totaled 7,467 million dollars against 8,268 million dollars.

Business Voices 'Concern' on Yen Appreciation

OW1904124993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1229 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Business leaders voiced strong concern over the yen's record-setting advance against the dollar on Monday, saying it could wreck efforts to put the economy back on track. "It could throw cold water on the Japanese economy, which we want very much to bottom out," said Isao Yonekura, vice chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

"We want monetary authorities to act more closely in coordination with other countries and to take appropriate action to achieve currency stability," Yonekura said.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said the yen's rise follows the current of the times from both medium-term and long-term perspectives as it will help reduce Japan's trade surplus. But Hayami, a former central bank executive, stressed that a rapid rise of the yen is not desirable.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, expressed concern about negative effects on export industries and small and medium-sized businesses.

"We want the government to consider specific measures to rescue small and medium-sized businesses, including emergency loans," Ishikawa said.

Businesses are divided over the yen's rise, with export industries such as electronics and auto manufacturers worried but retailers pleased.

"We're annoyed by the sudden rise of the yen," said Seiichi Kato of Sony Corp., which has raised prices on exports since April to reflect the yen's surge. The yen's rise has also upset Seiko Epson Corp., which mainly exports personal computers and printers.

"An exchange rate at the 110 yen level is more than corporations can cope with. We're practically being told 'don't make goods in Japan'," said a senior managing director at Seiko Epson.

The yen's advance is also bad news for Toyota Motor Corp., which has raised prices in the United States since January in the wake of the stronger yen. "We have no choice but to respond with cost-cutting efforts to make our business structure more sound," said a spokesman for Toyota.

But the yen's climb came as good news for retailers willing to beef up their import campaigns as a stronger yen helps cut import prices.

"So far we have emphasized (imported) foods. But we'll expand our campaign to include clothing and household goods which are in demand from consumers," said an official at Seiyu Ltd.

Kozyrev Urges Economic Pact With Tokyo

OW1604101193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0957 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Narita, Chiba Prefecture, April 16 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey kozyrev on Friday called on Japan to conclude a "comprehensive cooperation agreement" on economic assistance and science and technology.

"As the specific results that could result from President (Boris) Yeltsin's possible visit to Japan, I think it is possible for the two nations to draw up a comprehensive cooperation agreement on economy and scientific technology," he said. Kozyrev made the remark in an exclusive 25-minute interview with KYODO News Service at Narita airport before leaving for Moscow.

Kozyrev suggested in the interview that Moscow would welcome a visit by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in the future. He indicated this would be after Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa pays a visit to Moscow—if a rescheduled visit by Yeltsin to Tokyo materializes.

"First of all President Yeltsin would have to meet with Prime Minister Miyazawa and it is important for them to agree upon a date for Mr. Miyazawa's visit to Moscow," he said. "After that, I think the emperor and empress would consider it is possible to study (the possibility of) a visit to Russia."

Kozyrev was in Tokyo for the meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations which on Thursday [15 April] announced a 43 billion dollar aid package to help Russian economic reforms.

On the possibility of Yeltsin visiting Japan before the annual G- 7 summit in Tokyo from July 7 to 9, he said, "although the president's visit (before the summit) is a possibility, the Russian government has not yet reached a final decision."

Yeltsin, who abruptly called off a visit to Tokyo last September, mentioned the possible rescheduling of the visit in a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday [14 April]. Kozyrev stressed that Yeltsin merely meant that he "can consider visiting Japan in May" rather than announcing a definite plan to visit.

"You may interpret President Yeltsin's remark as evidence that Russia is ready to respond quickly to every positive gesture from Japan," he said. He did not elaborate on what further "positive gesture" Moscow wants to see.

Kozyrev asked Japan not to place emphasis on its claims to four Russian-held islands, saying, "I think both Russia and Japan have come to have the enhanced perception that the territorial problem has the same weight as various other issues."

"Although the territorial issue will be debated along with other issues at the forum of negotiations...any single controversial issue should not overshadow our bilateral relations or be given priority," he said.

The disputed islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido were seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II.

Japan maintains that settlement of the issue is a prerequisite to expanding its economic and technological help to Russia and refuses to sign a peace treaty with Moscow.

Kozyrev said, however, "the relationship of Russia and Japan is entering a new, more matured stage by passing the stage in which both nations mutually imposed prerequisites on progress of relations. However serious (the territorial claims) may be for Japan, it should not obstruct Russia and Japan from building up our partnership," he said.

Asked about the possibility of cooperation to halt the Russian Navy's dumping of radioactive waste such as aged nuclear submarine reactors into the Sea of Japan and other waters, Kozyrev said, "Russia and Japan agreed to consider the issue at expert-level meetings."

Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto, in a meeting with Kozyrev on Thursday [14 April], strongly criticized the practice of Russia, and the Soviet Union before it, of dumping radioactive waste at sea, including the Sea of Japan, and said Japan was particularly concerned to learn that two nuclear reactors had also been dumped.

On top of a comprehensive accord on economic and scientific technology cooperation, Kozyrev called for concluding "approximately 20 agreements of various sorts" with Japan. He did not specify what types of accords Moscow wants to conclude with Japan.

Last summer, a high-level Russian delegation, led by Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin, visited Japan and sought such technologies as optical fiber for a proposed Russian project to link Japan and the Western part of Russia with transcontinental optical fiber lines.

Top LDP Official Opposes Assistance to Russia

OW1804112393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture, April 18 KYODO—Senior leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) voiced opposition Sunday to lifting curbs on economic aid to Russia. They also told an LDP seminar that Japan must reevaluate its world role in view of the relative decline of the United States and the end of the cold War era.

LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama expressed anger at Russia for never apologizing for its treatment of Japanese prisoners of war held in Siberia after World War II.

In an opening address at a three-day study seminar for LDP women supporters, Kajiyama said he felt "distrust" and "hate" for Russia. "When (former Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev visited here he didn't apologize at all...I don't see why we should help such a country," Kajiyama said to a round of applause from the 230 party supporters from across the country.

Kajiyama, the ruling party's No. 2 leader, acknowledged, however, that he is an extremist in the party in his opposition to Russia, and said that attitudes are likely to change as younger politicians without wartime memories take over.

Foreign Minister Kabun Muto, who last week agreed with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev to reschedule a visit to Japan by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, made no reference to Russia in his *30-minute* speech.

LDP Executive Council Chairman Koko Sato also won support from the audience when he suggested that the government should keep a tight rein on aid to Russia until Moscow yields to Japan's demand for a resolution to a long-standing territorial dispute.

Japan had long maintained that large-scale economic aid to Russia is dependent on progress toward a resolution to the dispute over four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Army at the close of World War II. But the government relaxed its stand last week when it contributed 1.8 billion dollars worth of loans and grants to Russia as part of efforts by the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations to support Yeltsin in advance of an April 25 referendum on his leadership.

Sato said that while the world community expects Japan to shoulder greater international responsibilities, Tokyo's concerns and analysis on aid to Russia differ from those of other major industrialized nations. [passage omitted]

UN's Ganev Supports Council Seat for Tokyo

OW1604113493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—UN General Assembly president Stoyan Ganev told Japan's Foreign Minister Kabun Muto on Friday he supports Japan's effort to obtain a permanent seat on the UN Security council.

Ganev, a Bulgarian who was elected president of the General Assembly last September, told KYODO News Service after a meeting with Muto that membership on the council would reflect Japan's economic and political role in the world.

"From this point of view, it's important to reintegrate the structure of the Security Council and to think about the possibility of including Japan in this mechanism," Ganev said. "It is connected with the problem of adapting the United Nations to the realities of the world," he said.

Ganev said his discussions with Muto also covered the question of security for Japanese UN Volunteers and peacekeeping personnel in Cambodia.

He said he told Muto he now has a deeper understanding of Japan's determination to keep its contingent of Self-Defense Forces personnel in Cambodia despite heightened safety concerns after the shooting death April 8 of Japanese UN volunteer Atsuhito Nakata.

"We see that the Government of Japan continues to participate in Cambodia at what is, according to me, a decisive moment in the realization of the peacekeeping operation in Cambodia," Ganev said.

Ganev said that during his stay in Japan, he discussed with high Foreign Ministry officials "the necessity of special measures regarding the security of UN personnel and volunteers. I hope the Security Council and the UN will manage to find measures which will be a real guarantee of security," Ganev said.

"As a representative of Bulgaria, I understand this because four Bulgarian soldiers were killed in Cambodia," he added.

Ganev is in Japan as a guest of the Foreign Ministry. He attended an April 13-16 UN Conference on Disarmament in Kyoto and also held talks in Tokyo with Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada and Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa.

He will leave Japan on Saturday [17 April] for a visit to Malaysia. The 37-year-old Ganev served as Bulgaria's foreign minister from 1991 until December 1992.

Tokyo Expresses Caution About UN Initiative

OW1904050093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0410 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] New York, April 18 KYODO—Russia has proposed the United Nations declare "obsolete" articles of its 1945 charter that describe the former Axis nations of World War II as "enemy states," diplomatic sources said here Sunday.

Russia plans to have the proposal adopted into a communique following a special meeting scheduled for next month of foreign minister-level representatives of the UN Security Council member nations, the sources said.

Japan, which along with Germany, Italy and others is included under the "enemy states" articles, has campaigned for years to have the clauses deleted from the charter. Opponents of such a move say it would open a diplomatic can of worms.

The sources suggested that the Russian initiative is in line with President Boris Yeltsin's policies to improve relations with Tokyo.

According to the sources, Russian Ambassador to the UN Yuliy Vorontsov raised the issue of the "enemy states" articles last Wednesday in a meeting with envoys from the other four permanent members of the security council.

The other four—Britain, China, France and the United States—were reportedly in support of Russia's proposal.

On Thursday, Vorontsov formally proposed hosting the special meeting of foreign ministers, but did not mention the "enemy states" proposal, the sources said.

Asked by KYODO News Service if the proposal had been withdrawn, the ambassador replied "of course, it is still alive. This will be discussed among the 15 member nations of the security council."

Japan's UN representative office, however, expressed caution about the Russian initiative, pointing out that any revisions of the UN Charter are solely under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly.

"It is probably impossible for the Security Council to take up (this matter). We understand the proposal has been deleted," the office said.

In Tokyo on Monday, the Japanese Foreign Ministry welcomed the initiative, but stressed Japan's fundamental stance is that the issue should not be merely addressed in a Security Council declaration, but taken up with proper procedures.

Ministry sources suggested that Russia, by taking up the issue in the form of a declaration at this time, may be trying to make Japan feel indebted to Moscow.

The so-called "enemy states" articles, Article 53 and Article 107, describe an enemy state as "any state which during the Second World War has been an enemy of any signatory of the present charter (at the time of the founding of the UN)."

Article 53 stipulates that Security Council approval is required in enforcement actions taken under the authority of the Security Council with the exception of measures against any enemy state directed against the renewal of aggression.

Article 107 guarantees that the charter will not invalidate the actions taken by the UN member nations against the enemy states in World War II as a result of the war.

Unlike Japan, other nations described as "enemy states" have not raised the issue with the articles, saying they are already meaningless.

OECD Chief Holds Talks With Miyazawa, Muto

OW1904101193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0955 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—The chief of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Monday South Korea and Mexico are likely prospective members of the 24-nation body of industrialized nations.

OECD Secretary General Jean-Claude Paye, however, told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa the body cannot throw its doors open to all nations seeking membership as the expansion would hamper decision-making, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Eastern European nations and countries in South America are also seeking admission to the OECD.

Miyazawa in the meeting painted a favorable outlook for the Japanese economy, the official said. The economy has bottomed out, and is now heading for recovery, Miyazawa was quoted saying.

As a result of the rise in the value of the yen, wholesale prices are likely to decrease, he said.

Miyazawa said there is no immediate concern about inflationary pressure caused by the record 13.2 trillion yen pump-priming package adopted earlier this month.

"Wholesale prices should come down on the yen's appreciation. There are no fears about inflation at present.

Even if concern about inflation emerges, it will be far away from now," Miyazawa was quoted as saying.

Paye is in Tokyo to discuss the agenda of the ministerial-level council meeting slated to be held at the beginning of June in Paris.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Kabun Muto on the day, Paye said the OECD should discuss in the June meeting enhanced aid to developing nations and ways to maintain free trade. Paye said aid for developing nations should be enhanced, otherwise it will be difficult to cope with such important issues as rapidly increasing global population and environmental conservation.

Maintaining free trade and forestalling protectionism is also important to create a favorable situation for economic growth, employment, and trade, Paye was also quoted as saying.

Paye was scheduled to meet Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi and Trade Minister Yoshiro Mori later Monday.

On Tuesday, he is also scheduled to meet Masami Tanabu, minister of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno, and the influential business body the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

Miyazawa Hints at Electoral Reform Compromise

OW1704092593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 17 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa hinted Friday [16 April] that his ruling party may strike a deal with the opposition camp to reconcile differences over proposals to revamp Japan's electoral system for the House of Representatives.

Miyazawa made the suggestion at a briefing with a group of Japanese reporters accompanying him to Washington to cover his summit talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Asked whether the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) might reach a compromise with the opposition on the issue, he replied that prospects of such a deal "depend on what moves (ruling and opposition parties) may take when time runs out." He was apparently alluding to a deadline on the parliamentary schedule for the current regular Diet session, which ends on June 20.

"For the time being, I cannot help but saying (the LDP's package of) four political reform bills is the best proposal," he said.

The LDP has submitted to the Diet a bill calling for the introduction of 500 single-seat constituencies in lieu of the current multi-seat electoral system.

Opposition parties unanimously rapped the bill, calling it a plot to perpetuate the LDP's grip on power and saying it would enable the LDP to garner a number of seats disproportionately larger than the actual number of votes to be mustered by the LDP.

The Social Democratic Party [of Japan] and Komeito submitted a counterproposal calling introduction of the proportional representation system combined with a very limited single-seat system.

Miyazawa ruled out the possibility of his calling a general election in the near future to take the blame if the Diet fails to endorse an LDP plan to simultaneously push for the single-seat system and tighter controls on political donations.

Miyazawa turned down a suggestion that the LDP place priority on a bill to ban LDP faction leaders from distributing campaign funds to factional politicians loyal to them, rather than on a bill to introduce the single-seat system. "It is impossible to prohibit handouts of money among individual politicians without enacting the political party subsidization law," he said.

The proposed political party subsidization law would require the state to give subsidies to help political parties finance their members' election campaigns in proportion to the number of voters who had cast ballots for each party in the most recent national election.

LDP Moves Toward Political Reform Compromise

OW1604153493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1522 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 16 KYODO—The governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Friday moved toward striking a compromise with opposition parties in a bid to enact political reform bills aimed at changing the election system and tightening controls over political funding.

In the second-day session of the House of the Representatives Special Committee, Masajuro Shiokawa, head of the LDP political reform panel, said the parties concerned have to continue dialogue to enact political reform bills. He added, "Both the LDP and opposition parties share the view that the current multi-seat constituency system (for House of Representatives general elections) is not working effectively any more."

Opposition legislators repeated their objections to the LDP's plan to replace the current multi-seat constituencies entirely with single-seat ones. The LDP has tabled a set of four reform bills, which among other things calls for introducing single-seat constituencies for general elections, replacing the present multi-seat system.

The two largest opposition parties, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and Komeito, have come up with a separate set of six bills proposing establishment of a hybrid system of single-seat and proportional representation.

In the day's discussion SDP Member Akihiro Ohata proposed the idea of setting up a third-party watchdog body to monitor political funds, which are criticized as a hotbed of recurring political corruption.

Shiokawa, however, brushed aside the proposal, saying politics should not be bound by any superior authority.

The lower chamber's special committee will go into discussions on individual themes next week in an effort to legislate reform bills during the current Diet session which ends June 20.

Meanwhile, a private political reform council Saturday will unveil an alternative proposal to revise the election system for the lower house, officials said. The proposal suggests cutting the number of lower house seats to 500 from the current 512, with 300 legislators elected through the single-seat electoral system and the remaining 200 through proportional representation, they said.

As for the proportional representation part of the system, the package proposes dividing 200 seats among the parties based on over party showings in each prefecture.

The council is made up of luminaries from industry, labor organizations and media as well as politicians from both the ruling and opposition parties. It aims to prod the government to carry out political reforms by putting forth its own ideas.

The council's proposed system is a blending of the systems submitted by the LDP, the SDP and Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party, they said.

The DSP's idea is to vote for legislators in a proportional representation system based on the prefectural unit.

The SDP-Komeito package calls for dividing the nation into 12 blocs and 200 single constituencies. It calls for electing 200 legislative seats through the single-seat system and the remaining 300 through a proportional system.

Akira: Military To Grow in Wake of Cold War

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[Interview with Hiyoshi Akira, deputy director general of Japan's Defense Agency, conducted by Chong Ku-chong entitled: "Japan's Defense Forces Will Be Improved Even Though Cold War Is Over"—at Japan Defense Agency in Tokyo, date not given]

[Text] Located at Roppongi, the lively "youth hangout" that makes up Tokyo's commercial district, the Japan Defense Agency [JDA] looks like any other ordinary government building. The image projected is far from any military image that would indicate "defense."

In fact, the JDA Building seems out of place as far as the city structure goes. In spite of its external appearance, inside are bunker-like "central command posts" (second floor above ground, third floor basement level). Here, electronic systems are at work twenty-four hours a day, providing at a single glance the deployment status of Japan's Ground, Air, and Maritime Self Defense Forces together with military movements surrounding Japan. It is here in this supreme command that, in times of crises, top leaders of Japan's Self Defense Forces [SDF] under the command of either the prime minister or the JDA director general decide whether to dispatch the SDF. Thus this underground fortress is known as the "modern version of the Imperial Guard Headquarters".

The juxtaposition of this modern electronic warfare command post on a corner of an entertainment and shopping district reminds one of the fact that amidst its economic accomplishments in the post-war era, Japan has had to surreptitiously enshroud its immense military power with the peace Constitution.

It was here at the JDA that we met JDA Deputy Director General [DDG] Hiyoshi Akira (age 59). Hiyoshi is in overall charge of the actual operations related to Japan's defense policy, in particular the defense budget and mid- to long-range planning. We asked him some questions about Japan's "military" in the post-cold war era, and the path in which it is headed.

The conclusion of the cold war has witnessed a historical change in the security environment between East and West. Major countries to include the United States are subsequently conducting arms reductions. As a "peace dividend," extra funds resulting from decreased defense outlays are being generated for areas such as the domestic economy, education, medicine, and the environment. Discussion and debate has also been active in both Japan's Diet and in the mass media since the autumn of 1989. The debate surrounds the assertion that Japan, in accordance with world-wide trends, must make an overall revision of its defense policy.

Japan's defense budget is over $35 billion annually, often pointed to as the "world's third highest." It is also noted that Japan never clearly explains why it spends so much money on defense, and where and how it intends to use the state-of-the-art weaponry that they have acquired with this money. Japan has been criticized for merely maintaining the logic of "an exclusively defensive defense" without any clear conceptualization themselves of where they intend to use these weapons.

International collective security in accordance with UN peacekeeping operations that increased with the Gulf war. This has provided Japan with an opportunity to pursue a new road for its military amidst the aforementioned predicament. A place to use forces abroad has developed. Moves to dispatch SDF forces overseas under the justification of "international contributions" has become the greatest issue within Japanese politics. Even debate over constitutional revision aimed at making the Constitution more "militarily realistic" has developed.

Such moves are based upon the "theory of Japan's role." Heard both inside and out of Japan, this theory states that Japan must take an international role and responsibility commensurate with its growth in national power. The departure point for seeking an increase in military roles begins with active participation in peacekeeping operations and participation in the standing forces of the United Nations through amendments to the Constitution.

There is the possibility that attempts currently underway in Japan to define such new policy courses will bring about a major transformation in Japan's defense and security policies that have been maintained under the post-war peace Constitution. It is from this perspective that we talked with DDG Hiyoshi, the person actually in charge of Japan's defense policy at the "working level." Discussions centered around the future direction of Japan's defense and security policy for the next few years, beginning with the 1990's and leading up to the twenty-first century.

Hiyoshi passed the senior-level state official examination (in law) during his fourth year at Tokyo University's law department. In 1959 he began public life as an official of the Trade Bureau of the Ministry of Finance. Until coming to the JDA as the head of the defense department in 1988, he primarily served at the Ministry of Finance where he was concerned with all facets of the state budget and thus became an expert bureaucrat on the subject. Being familiar with all aspects of state budget formulation, he is especially strong in tugs-of-war with budget authorities in the defense budget decision process. Since his time as director of the Defense Department, he has advised the director general of the JDA during Diet interpellation sessions, and has even answered in place of the director general at some 100 meetings. As attested to by his vast experience, Hiyoshi answered this writer's questions in an orderly and smooth fashion.

The Two Pillars of Japan's Defense Policy

[Chong Ku-chong] The end of the cold war was in fact formalized with the U.S.-Soviet summit talks held in December 1989 at Malta. With the subsequent resolution of the U.S.-Soviet confrontation, the West's security strategy that had been based upon the "Soviet threat" is under pressure to be changed. There are marked trends toward arms reductions as the security and military strategies of each nation are being adjusted. The world appears to be moving toward the creation of a new security system centered around the United Nations. Amidst such a change in the security environment, the various countries of Asia have a great interest in which direction Japan's defense and security strategy in the post-cold war era will head.

Even in Japan, the opposition party is calling for large-scale revisions to the current basic plan for defense that is aimed at a constant increase in military force. They claim that as long as the "Soviet threat" has been weakened, revisions as well as a reduction in defense expenditures are necessary. There was, of course, formidable voices within the government and Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Defense Committee saying that it would be difficult to take advantage of current trends and make defense cuts given the existence of a "potential Russian threat" and the instability in the Asian region. In the end, the government and ruling party's plan to "maintain the existing defense policy" was realized, and Japan entered into its 1991 to 1995 Mid-Term Defense Plan, a Five-Year Plan with over 22 trillion yen being invested overall. There appears to be no particular change in Japan's defense and security policy even after the conclusion of the cold war.

[Hiyoshi Akira] Looking at today's international environment, I believe that the possibilities for a large-scale armed conflict are very slim due to major changes in the international environment resulting from the termination of the East-West conflict and the cold war. It is also true, however, that today's world is filled with various destabilizing factors, with the possibility increasing for conflicts based on religious and ethnic issues previously restrained during the East-West cold war. I feel as though the current situation involves the international community searching for a new peaceful order. Thus Japan's defense policy until now has been based upon two pillars: The Japan-U.S. security system and the securing of appropriate levels of independent defense capability. I do not believe there is a need to change such a policy even in the future, since even with the demise of the East-West cold war, the world today has not become so peaceful as to negate the need to possess military forces, as regrettable as that fact may be. A country cannot help but depend on deterrence through force.

Apart from the question of whether it is desirable, it may indeed be impossible for Japan to maintain levels of defense sufficient to respond on its own to all the various destabilizing factors when one considers Japan's geographical conditions or political situation. Subsequently, from Japan's position as a world leader, I feel that it is extremely important to continue the Mutual Security Treaty with the United States, the world's interminably preeminent military power and a country with whom Japan shares the similar values of freedom and democracy. In this manner, I feel that within the framework of the Japan-U.S. security system, Japan does need to maintain a certain level of independent defense capability as an independent state. Although the East-West cold war can be said to be over, there is no need to change the basic thrust of Japan's security policy, in other words its basic concepts. I am saying that there will be no change.

Maintain "Minimal Amount Needed" of Defense

[Chong] Major countries including the United States have been reducing their defense budgets since the end of the cold war. Mid- and long-term military plans are being reduced and adjusted across the board. The "Twenty-first Century Strategic Framework for the

Asian-Pacific Rim" published by the U.S. Department of Defense clearly delineates a schedule for the phased reduction of U.S. forces stationed abroad until the year 2000. Yet Japan's current Five-Year Plan (1991 to 1995) that covers mid-term force acquisitions has been adopted and is currently in effect. The new Five-Year Plan running from 1996 to 2000 is currently being conceptualized. Please elaborate on the prospects for Japan's long-term defense acquisition plans.

[Hiyoshi] The basic concept that Japan has pursued for the equipping of defensive forces has been the 1976 "National Defense Program Outline," a plan decided upon by the cabinet and the Diet. Drafted and adopted during the era of detente, this plan was based on the perception that the possibilities for large-scale armed conflict involving Japan were quite limited.

When thinking about Japan, one must first remember that an all-out invasion of Japan is unthinkable given the Japan-U.S. security system. Japan has equipped itself, however, with defensive forces based upon the recognition that as long as Japan is an independent state, it must possess a minimal base defense force. What is this "base defense force"? It does not mean possessing the capability to respond directly to every military threat surrounding Japan. Instead it is based on the belief that should Japan fail to maintain a certain level of defense force, then a "power vacuum" would develop that could instead turn into a regional destabilizing factor. This concept calls for Japan to secure a minimally required degree of defense force so that a "power vacuum" does not develop. By any definition, Japan has had to maintain a defensive force not only to protect itself, but also to fulfill its international responsibility to regional security.

At the time the National Defense Program Outline was drafted, a tense peace had been maintained through the East-West cold war. Thus in many ways it was similar to the current situation insofar that peace now is being maintained, even though the reasons why this peace was being maintained then were different. It appears as though international cooperation is progressing toward a truer form of stability and peace at this time. The basic concept of "equipping for defense" at this time may, in my opinion, be more appropriate now than in 1976.

Thus I really do not feel any need to change the basic concept for defense decided upon in 1976 in the National Defense Program Outline. Rather, I feel that perhaps what indeed may be happening is that other countries are moving toward equipping their militaries in a manner similar to Japan's basic defense concept. Thus I feel no need to change the basic defense concept as far as its qualitative aspects.

I merely feel that there is a need to openly and candidly verify these concepts given that the international situation has changed so drastically. However, if I may give my own personal opinion, I feel that the result of such an inquiry will be that there is no need to change the basic concept for equipping defensive forces. In the 1976 National Defense Program Outline, there was an annex that covered what scale of forces would be necessary to obtain a fixed quantity of basic defense force. This annex included various factors such as numbers of SDF officers, unit organization, and numbers of necessary equipment. I feel that perhaps there may be a need to fix the quantitative figures given in this annex after reflecting upon the recent international situation and military technology.

Japan Must Rearm With A Modern Defensive Force

[Chong] The 1976 National Defense Program Outline looks quite outdated when compared with the current international situation. There are also some who say that when compared with recent developments in defense technology, the equipment and forces in the plan are too outdated. Yet if this is the case, then the argument is being made that even more modernized defense forces than the units and equipment mandated by the "annex" must be obtained.

[Hiyoshi] In any case, if reorganizing the numbers of SDF troops, unit organization, or major equipment numbers becomes a problem, then more attention must be paid to the international situation. Another major problem is that various domestic factors exert influence as well. In that context, I think it would be wise to take a little more time, come to some conclusion after two to three years of progress through the Mid-Term Defense Plan (currently in its 1991 to 1995 period), and reconsider planning under a time schedule corresponding with the beginning of the next New Mid-Term Plan.

[Chong] Several debates are surfacing throughout Japan with the passing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Cooperation Bill by Japan's Diet in 1992. Is Japan's participation in such actions as U.N. Forces under the U.N Charter possible within the limits of the existing Constitution? Should "U.N. Standing Forces" (provisional name) develop into a permanent organization similar to the multinational forces we have seen to date, will Japan dispatch SDF troops? Would the dispatching of troops be possible under existing domestic laws? The overseas dispatch of "lightly armed units" based upon the PKO Law is now possible. Will Japanese units thus end up participating with U.N. Forces who may have to settle international disputes through force? Is there no possibility of participating in future peacekeeping forces' military actions? Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Watanabe Michio has asserted in the past on several occasions that Japan must actively participate in U.N. Forces.

[Hiyoshi] I do not think that it is possible for Japan to participate under the current PKO law since the law does not presume participating in either U.N. Forces as based upon Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter or the so-called multinational forces similar to those during the Gulf war crisis. The only thing that is possible under the law is participating in the peacekeeping forces within a narrow definition. This is all that is addressed in the existing law that basically states that it would be possible to participate. This issue has essentially been put on hold until addressed in a separate law through Diet debate. Although the PKO bill has passed, participation in peacekeeping forces have also been put on hold. If there is a decision within the Diet to lift this freeze, only then, I believe, will it be possible for Japan to participate in peacekeeping forces. Even if this is the case, however, since these peacekeeping forces are different from U.N. forces as stipulated by U.N. Charter Chapter 7 and from multinational forces, shopuld Japan participate in the peacekeeping forces I do not think that it could participate in either of the latter two organizations.

Constitutional Debate on Collective Security

There are some politicians, are there not, who assert that Japan's participation in U.N. forces and multinational forces is possible with merely a revision to the current Constitution with the PKO Law being a law? Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Watanabe stated during a New Year's greetings speech to his home district in early January 1993, "During the next Diet session, we must remove current impediments blocking participation in U.N. peacekeeping forces by revising the PKO law. We must revise the Constitution and the SDF law as well so that SDF forces may step forth and participate in international conflicts." He also stated during a speech in Tokyo on 21 January that Japan must actively pursue the concept of the establishment of U.N. police forces. Do not such pro-active words ultimately mean that with merely a revision to the law within the Diet, Japan will be able to participate in U.N. forces or multinational forces?

Japan's participation in operations of U.N. forces or multinational forces means exercising the right of collective self-defense. In other words, it would entail collective self-defense or collective security beyond the concept of the right of individual self-defense that is based upon what could be called the fixed national policy that Japan has followed since the war that of maintaining an exclusively defensive defense.

Collective security and the issue of participating in the collective security sphere had been regarded as taboo, restricted by the Constitution. The Ozawa Investigation Committee, headed by former LDP Secretary General Ozawa, asserts, "Even without revising the current Constitution Japan can participate in international security organs such as the U.N. Forces." This is the "interpretative constitutional revision" view. On the other hand, there is also the active participation theory within the LDP. This theory states that there must be participation in collective security even if it means revising the Constitution. The constitutional debate over collective security will apparently continue as Japan goes through the process of exercising its international responsibilities and obligations to make "international contributions." What is your opinion on this subject?

[Hiyoshi] There are many differing interpretations of Japan's Constitution among scholars and even the general public. The most authoritative interpretation to come down from the government, however, notes that Japan is a member of the United Nations and has concluded the Japan-U.S. Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. Additionally, as an independent state, Japan possesses both the principle rights of "individual self-defense" as well as "collective self-defense." Yet Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution limits the right of collective self-defense. This is how I interpret it. Although we have the "right" of collective self-defense, the Constitution restrains the "exercise" of that right. This is the predominant analysis within the government.

If this is so, then this raises the question of whether or not U.N. forces based upon Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter are directly related to the "exercise" of the right of collective self-defense. Since there has never been even one case where U.N. forces were actually established, some type of special agreement would be concluded between concerned countries. This, in reality, would be decided based upon what form the U.N. forces would take when they are established. Thus, I believe that it would be difficult before such an organization is even created to say "Considering Japan's Constitution, participation would be unjustifiable," or "No, this would be okay."

All I can say for certain is that it appears that participation in multinational forces similar to those that were formed at the time of the Gulf war would be impossible. This is because to some degree such participation involves the exercise of the right of collective self-defense. Although it was not our country that was invaded by another country, I believe that participation is impossible in cases where force is used to assist another country with whom we have close relations when they are invaded.

Although Low, Increasing Trends in Japan's Defense Expenditures

[Chong] Japan's 1993 defense budget reflects a 1.85 percent increase over 1992. The growth rate in the defense budget has been low for the past several years. Even so, the fact itself that the budget is increasing remains unchanged. According to "Military Balance 1992 to 1993," that includes an analysis by the Institute of International Strategic Studies (IISS) of each nation's defense budget by year, the 1992 defense budget of the United States was a 4.4 percent reduction from 1991's budget of $287.45 billion. Germany had a 4.5 percent reduction, Great Britain registered a 4.1 percent drop, and France also had a 7.7 percent decrease. Most of the major NATO nations reduced their 1992 defense budget compared to previous years. In contrast, Japan's 1992 budget was a 3.7 percent increase from 1991. There are even some who point out that Japan's defense budget when converted based upon the NATO method used in comparing defense expenditures of NATO nations is even greater. Please comment on future trends in Japan's defense spending, a budget that is pointed to as the world's third largest.

[Hiyoshi] It is difficult at this stage to disclose trends in future defense-related spending. As for 1994 and 1995 defense spending, total expenditures for the 1991 to 1995 time period as set by the revised Mid-Term Defense Plan are around 2.217 trillion yen (based on 1990 yen costs). Year-by-year costs will be determined after considering factors such as the financial situation at the time, aiming toward achieving harmony with other state policies. As for the method by which defense spending is calculated, there are those who point out that Japan would have the world's third largest defense budget when calculated according the standards of the NATO definition. However, since the NATO definition is a secret, no concrete standard is publicized. It would therefore be difficult to make an exact comparison with NATO.

As for the "Military Balance" put out by Great Britain's IISS and often used in comparing international defense expenditures, in the 1992 to 1993 edition it stated that Japan's defense spending ranked sixth in the world. I also feel that a simple comparison of defense expenditures is not directly linked to a comparison of equipment and defense forces since each country's situation is different. Parenthetically, when one looks at overall quantitative force strength, Japan's is not at levels that could even compete with the major Western countries such as Great Britain, France, and Germany.

"Sea Lane Defense" Strongly Requested by United States

[Chong] Being a traditional maritime country, Japan has been strengthening its naval power. Even the challenge which it posed to the United States in World War II was the result of Japan believing that it had the world's preeminent naval power. Japan's current defense budget places top priority on naval force improvement. We will say that this is out of strategic considerations of guaranteeing the security of Japan's 1,000-nautical-mile sea lane. The Reagan administration forcefully requested Japan promise that it would guard its own sea lanes. To protect sea lanes incurs an enormous defense budget burden and requires the acquisition of much equipment. Acquisitions include the Aegis Destroyer, the airborne warning and control system (AWACS) that Japan has already decided to acquire, as well as the airborne refueling aircraft currently being considered for acquisition. Some people point out that this equipment may go beyond the concept of exclusively defensive defense. There are also some concerns that such state-of-the-art naval and air power may be leading the Japanese military to advance overseas.

[Hiyoshi] Beginning with the Aegis, Japan is a nation surrounded on four sides by the sea. It is greatly dependent on other countries for such goods as energy. As such, it is an absolute necessity for Japan to have the capability to ensure the safety of the sea lanes. The Aegis is a mainstay antiair vessel that is in keeping with trends in military technology. It is targeted for use in our four escort flotillas that guarantee sea lane safety as antisubmarine surface vessel units. Three escort flotillas already have the Aegis deployed. The budget for deploying the Aegis in the remaining escort flotilla was placed in the 1993 budget. Thus I do not believe that there is any contradiction between acquisition of the Aegis and our country's basic principle of exclusively defensive defense.

The AWACS is also indispensable in effective air defense within the limits of the exclusively defensive defense concept for Japan. Intelligence collection activities or rapid target detection over Japan and in the surrounding sea and air spaces is an essential element of exclusively defensive defense. While guiding interceptor aircraft to respond to intruders as necessary, as need be it also can serve to substitute for warning and control functions on the ground that has been destroyed. It is for these objectives that the AWACS is being obtained. Therefore, for a country like Japan who has an exclusively defensive defense, an early warning and control aircraft is most appropriate and is recognized as defensive equipment.

Concerning the airborne refueling aircraft, even in the Mid-Term Defense Plan and the previous Mid-Term Defense Plan (1986 to 1990), studies have continued on the capabilities of airborne refueling aircraft and the employment concept and functions of mid-air refueling. That is why the JDA is currently considering this. Although the JDA has not yet decided to acquire a mid-air refueling aircraft, the general consensus is that one method by which to counter the staggering improvements in the intruding capability of modern aircraft is to scramble interceptors before the fact and have them in a ready state, the so-called airborne warning standby (CAP). In this case, the stand-by time of the interceptors in the air can be extended if an airborne refueling aircraft is utilized. Therefore I believe that an airborne refueling aircraft itself does not run counter to "exclusively defensive defense."

[Chong] It is natural that the modernization of equipment and the transformation of the military into elite forces will bring about a change in defense concepts. It would therefore be easy to suspect that perhaps the acquisition plan for equipment such as the Aegis, AWACS, and airborne refueling aircraft might lead to an expansion of the concept of sea lane defense. This also may be counted as a possible factor leading to an intensification of the arms race among the nations of Asia such as China. Even China's naval force improvements remind us that the powerful military nations of Asia will compete in the future over maritime advances. However, I would like to hear your thoughts on Japan's post-cold war sea lane defense strategy.

Japan-U.S. Security Important Even After Cold War's Conclusion

Generally speaking, I would say that sea lane defense includes the linkage and integration of various operations to include coastal and straits defense, minesweeping operations in adjacent seas, and the escort of Japanese vessels to ensure their safe navigation. The goal of this defense is to ensure safety of the sea lanes through the cumulative effect of such operations. Thus even if the East-West cold war is said to be over, as a nation surrounded on four sides by water and furthermore as a "trade country" dependent on overseas sources for most resources and energy, Japan is one country where it is absolutely necessary to make protection of the sea lanes a way of life. It is a very important task. Thus I believe that sea-lane defense is absolutely necessary even with changes in the international security environment when the other consideration of the geographic environment Japan is facing is taken into account. Thus even in the future there will very probably be no change to this defense policy.

I would like to elaborate more on this so that there is no misunderstanding. Even during the East-West cold war, Japan's sea-lane defense has never been pursued with any particular country in mind. Sea-land defense is yet another link in Japan's basic force improvement. These capabilities were acquired so that Japan could guarantee to some degree the safe navigation of Japanese vessels. In such a vein, I believe that even if there is a change in the power relations among each of the nations surrounding Japan, or if there is a change in the political-military situation, the basic need for Japan's sea-lane defense will neither increase or decrease.

[Chong] There are a number of people who believe that since the end of the cold war, there may be some type of change underway in the U.S.-Japan security system. For Japan, there are two pillars to guaranteeing state security: independent defense and the U.S.-Japan security relationship. Neither one of these components of Japan's basic defense strategy could be easily abandoned or dismantled. However, the "Soviet threat" was the basis for the U.S.-Japan security relationship. With a resolution of this threat, it is true that the raison d'etre for the U.S.-Japanese security relationship has weakened. Also, as specified in Article 10 of the U.S.-Japanese Security Treaty, "Should it be determined by both the United States and Japan that the security functions centered on the United Nations have become restored," then the U.S.-Japanese security could be abrogated. Such recent phenomena as the peacekeeping operations, multinational forces, and the U.N. forces that will be pursued in the future must be seen, I believe, as the result of the resurrection of U.N.- centered security functions. Accordingly, with the resurrection and revival of these functions that could replace the U.S.-Japanese security basis, theoretically the U.S.-Japanese security relationship has accomplished its mission. Some international political scientists within Japan point out this fact. How do you feel about the future of U.S.-Japan security.

[Hiyoshi] Even after the conclusion of the cold war, I believe that the Japan-U.S. security system is an extremely important pillar policy-wise in the guaranteeing of Japan's security. Accordingly, I feel that we must proceed in the relationship while improving confidence and credibility. The Japan-U.S. security system, although I may not be using the most appropriate words, is perhaps in some ways unilateral in that it a system whereby the benefits enjoyed by Japan are extremely immense. It is true that across the board, to include financial capabilities and economic power, the overall strength of our partner, the United States, is waning. This being the case, in order to effectively maintain the Japan-U.S. security system I believe that indeed Japan must increase its role in the relationship. I merely feel that it would be impossible within a military sense for Japan to substitute for the roles and missions that the United States plays in this relationship. This is both a constitutional issue for Japan as well as an issue related to the question of Japan's political posture. Should Japan step forth and take over the roles militarily that the United States plays now, it indeed, I believe, may end up becoming a destabilizing factor for the Asian-Pacific region.

Asian Security—"One Umbrella"

[Chong] If so, then you believe that some type of cooperative system with the United States could develop should Japan improve its credibility within the framework of the U.S.-Japan security system?

[Hiyoshi] I believe that cooperation can commence from a financial aspect, then on to other aspects such as technology. Since the advent of the Japan-U.S. security system, Japan has received much technology from the United States in accordance with the Japan-U.S. Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement. More recently, with improvements in Japan's economic and technological power, opportunities have grown making it possible to utilize dual-use technologies from Japan in the defense sector of the United States. In that sense, I feel that the possibilities and importance for Japan to increase its cooperation with the United States are increasing. As a typical example, Japan and the United States are working together to jointly develop the future generation support fighter aircraft, the FSX, for Japan. We intend to gradually develop similar defense technology cooperation between Japan and the United States in the future. I feel that what had previously been a one-way street when it comes to cooperation between the two countries is developing gradually into a two-way street.

[Chong] Korea currently has the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty. Japan, meanwhile, has the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. Thus both Korea and Japan both depend on mutual security with the United States, and both have made mutual defense treaties with the United States the basis for their security. There is an increasing number of proposals and debates concerning the future security posture within the Asian-Pacific region. Some call for the creation of a joint collective body under "one umbrella." Prime Minister Miyazawa during a July 1992 speech given at the National Press Club on his visit to Washington proposed something to the effect, I believe, that a multinational consultative system be constructed based upon an Asian-Pacific collective security system. Even Russian President Yeltsin during a December 1992 visit to Korea raised the necessity of a system for political and security talks in which each nation in the Asian-Pacific region would participate. This could perhaps be called an "Asian version" of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). There are many concepts of Asian-Pacific collective security being raised.

If such a forum for joint discussion in which the countries of the Asian-Pacific region could participate develops, then nations could debate matters of mutual interest related to security under "one umbrella." Once participation in a new regional collective forum commences in the future, then I believe that the existing bilateral mutual security and defense systems and this new collective security discussion system may be redundant. Maintaining the bilateral security systems such as the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense relationship and the U.S.-Japan Security system while participating in a collective security forum will become an issue. When this issue arises, then I believe it will be inevitable to have to adapt a two-channel, two-track system, the so-called "two-track approach" or "double course." How do you feel in the case of Japan? Do you feel that there is no difficulty in accepting and maintaining the redundancy of two different security systems.

Difficulties in Constructing a Single Asian Security System

[Hiyoshi] In a word, I believe that there are many difficulties to creating a multilateral "singular security system" in Asia, more so than in Europe. In the case of Europe, there were two enormous systems, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Warsaw Pact. They were therefore able to form a single system merely by figuring out how to link these two systems. Moreover, there is a considerable amount of homogeneity in the European continent geopolitically. The same has not been true within Asia. Even within the East Bloc during the era of East-West confrontation, relations were not always the best between China and the Soviet Union. The same is true of Vietnam-China relations. Then there was the issue of whether there were close relations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. Then somewhat further away there were the delicate relations between India and Pakistan. Also, India and the Soviet Union had close relations yet India's relations with China were not that good. Thus there are some very intricate and complex aspects to the region.

I therefore believe that it would be considerably difficult for these countries to suddenly create a "single security system" under "one umbrella." I feel that it would be considerably important merely to get together one time and exchange opinions. Fortunately, there have been security systems centered around the United States among the various democratic countries of the region such as the ROK-U.S., Japan-U.S., the U.S.-Philippines, and the U.S.-Taiwan systems.

Thus, with the presence of the United States being the common thread, I believe that it would be desirable to build confidence first through repeated discussions within the framework of the various bilateral systems centered around the United States as well as through other forums such as the Asian Expanded Foreign Ministers Conference or the Asia Pacific Economic Council (APEC). After confidence is established, then later we could move on to a single security system.

If we reverse this order and attempt to create a comprehensive security system for the Asia-Pacific Region, then perhaps considerable troubles will come about.

Even in an area as homogenous as Europe, it was NATO, a military alliance, that in the end was able to manage security guarantees.

I see CSCE as nothing more than a forum to exchange opinions for the sake of confidence building. In the end, I do not feel as though the power to manage peace and security guarantee lay in the CSCE. This is why I believe that it is more realistic to continue to make the bilateral security and defense systems that have been maintained in Asia until now the axis of security in the region and begin with work to improve confidence building relations.

ROK-Japan Defense Cooperation Must Be Strengthened

[Chong] When it comes to the relationship between Korea and Japan, I see the United States at the apex of an isosceles triangle with our two countries at the bottom. This is because both of our countries are engaged in bilateral security systems though security and defense treaties between Korea and the United States on one hand and the United States and Japan on the other. However, there are instances where, through joint participation in joint sea exercises in the Pacific Ocean such as RIMPAC, Korea and Japan find themselves sharing the same position. Also, there are extremely limited mutual visits and exchange programs between officers of the ROK Armed Forces and SDF officers as well as individuals from defense institutes. However, within Korea, there coexist arguments for and against the possibility of ROK-Japan cooperation in the field of defense. Of course those against such cooperation base their argument on a feeling of guardedness toward Japan. Meanwhile, those in favor also appear to be unable to present any clear logical argument for their position. Even so, what are the prospects for ROK-Japan security and defense cooperation?

[Hiyoshi] Although this concerns primarily the issues of ROK-Japan security and ROK-Japan defense cooperation, I believe that there are other considerations as well. Being in the Asia-Pacific Region, and particularly being located in Northeast Asia, I believe that in the relationship between Korea and Japan there are a great number of mutual interests shared by both countries when it comes to security. These include, for example, the issue of nuclear weapons development by North Korea, the issue of stationing U.S. forces in the Asia-Pacific region, and on a wider scale the issue of a security system for the entire region. Thus I feel it is extremely important for both of our countries to acquire a shared perception of the issues here and work toward an adequate exchange of ideas on these subjects through defense exchanges between Korea and Japan. My feeling is that up until now, such exchange has not been sufficient. There have been instances of Japanese SDF officers visiting Korea and exchanging opinions with concerned individuals. Yet this has not been a very active exchange. Although there is exchange between researchers of Japan's defense institutes and the Korea Institute for Defense Analysis, this has been the extent of it. Japan's JDA director general has visited Korea on two different occasions already, yet for various reasons Korea's Minister of Defense has yet to visit Japan. Thus, if the situation permits, I believe that a visit to Japan by your defense minister would have enormous significance.

We are very appreciative for the considerable understanding with which the section on Japan's security and defense policy in Korea's "National Defense White Paper" released toward the end of 1992 was written. This was different from the previous year's White Paper. The previous year's edition shows that perhaps such problems arise because there are so few opportunities to get together and talk. From Japan's perspective, I feel that it would be extremely good if there is honest exchange of opinions by civilians to include yourself who are concerned with security policy planning, officers from the Internal Bureau of the JDA and those responsible for policy within the ROK Defense Ministry.

[Chong] Thank you very much for your time.

North Korea

Pyongyang Denies Exporting Missiles to Iran

SK1704104993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, Apr[redacted]—Mass media of the United States and other Western countries are now spreading fantastic reports about "missile export" by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Quoting THE NEW YORK TIMES, Voice of America brought together the balderdash that North Korea intended to "sell medium-range missiles of new type" to Iran and they posed "threat" to the security of Middle East and Asia.

This is a totally unfounded mean propaganda and another round of the anti-DPRK smear campaign.

It is unimaginable for the DPRK which has made consistent efforts for world peace and security, regarding independence, peace and friendship as the basic idea of its foreign policy, to manufacture mass destruction weapons and export them.

It is none other than the United States that has struck a bonanza through a massive sale of nuclear weapons, missiles and other mass destruction weapons to other countries.

In the last decade alone, the U.S. imperialists have sold weapons worth 128 billion dollars to more than 120 countries in the form of "military aid".

It is a shameless act reminding us of a thief filing the suit first to talk loudly about the fictitious "missile export" by the DPRK, while keeping mum about the sale of nuclear weapons, missiles and other mass destruction weapons to countries in the Middle East and other regions by the United States with other Western imperialists.

It is an old practice of the U.S. imperialists who have got accustomed to the anti-DPRK smear campaign to slander it with fabrications.

When things went amiss in their outcries over "suspicion of nuclear development" against the DPRK based on lies the U.S. imperialists are now charging it with "missile export". This indicates how viciously they are trying to isolate and stifle Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses.

It is a daydream for them to try to mislead public opinion and frighten the Korean people with false propaganda which cannot go down with anyone.

They must know clearly that any threat and high-handed act never work with the Korean people who regard independence as their life and soul and that they will only face denunciation from the world people.

The United States must give up the foolish intention to threaten the DPRK with fabrications and immediately withdraw its nuclear weapons and missiles from South Korea.

U.S. 'Slandering' North on Issue

SK1804011293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Yun Pyong-son commentary: "Machinator's Mean Act of Fabrication"]

[Text] A Korean proverb says that one's habit cannot be handed over to a dog. This means that one cannot break off one's bad habit easily but is apt to repeat it.

The act of fabrication by the U.S. ruling circles in a bid to slander us carries the same meaning as this proverb.

As has already been reported, a U.S. State Department spokesman said that we produced 1,000 km-range missiles and are going to turn them over to Iran, and babbled that so-called dissemination of missiles should be suspended.

Needless to say, this is a groundless ridiculous smear and slander worked out under an insidious aim to isolate and stifle [korip apsal hada] our socialism, which is making a long drive by taking advantage of victory even amid the imperialists' political and economic pressure and military threat.

The U.S. imperialists resumed the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise against us on the pretext of suspicion concerning our nonexistent nuclear weapons development, and enforced a special inspection on us by instigating some circles of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. In addition, they attempted to bring this issue to the UN arena and maneuvered to impose so-called sanctions on us. They complicated the situation and aggravated the situation on the Korean peninsula to an extreme point. This is a fact already known to the entire world.

However, since such maneuvers were totally smashed by our resolute and decisive self-defensive steps, they concocted this time a new scheme of so-called dissemination of missiles, thus slandering and defaming us.

This shows how persistently they are maneuvering to slander us. This also illustrates that the U.S. imperialists are the political swindlers specializing in stratagem and fabrication.

Those who produced and exported mass lethal weapons, including nuclear weapons and missiles, and who transferred their technology [kisulul ijonhada] are none other than the United States itself.

As has been revealed, England, France and many other countries produced missiles and sold them to other countries. Of them, the United States in particular, produced mass lethal weapons amounting to more than $40 billion in 1991 alone and sold them to nearly all countries including countries in the Middle East.

Moreover, the United States reduced South Korea to the largest nuclear forward base in the Far East and a nuclear arsenal by deploying more than 1,000 nuclear weapons there. In addition, the United States turned over a great number of missiles to the puppets and transferred its technology. This is no secret.

South Korea has already manufactured missiles with the U.S. imperialists' support and backing. It is accelerating production of even nuclear weapons at the stage of completion.

All this proved that the United States is the chieftain [wangcho] of manufacture and export of mass lethal weapons including missiles and the transfer of technology.

Frankly speaking, the United States is the ringleader who reduced South Korea to an exhibition of mass lethal weapons and who disseminated [chonpahada] missiles to other countries and thus aggravated disputes and sacrificed many people in these areas. Therefore, the United States is not in the position to pick a quarrel with and slander us by raving about dissemination of missiles and so forth.

Nevertheless, the United States, not uttering even a word about the export of its numerous nuclear weapons and missiles to other countries together with its allies and about technological transfers, slandered others with nonexisting and concocted materials. This is intended to realize its insidious purpose, and is the same as the act of a thief calling out, "Stop thief!"

Even today when international justice and fairness should be ensured, the United States has not broken off its previous bad habit of interfering in others' domestic affairs as world military policemen.

Times have changed. The United States should correctly realize that its repressive and forcible act [kangkwon haengwi] cannot be admitted [tonghada] any place.

The United States should first withdraw its nuclear weapons and missiles which it accumulated in South Korea, instead of attempting to slander and defame someone else and apply pressure on them.

The machinator's fabrication and slander cannot avoid the frustration of facing the opposition and rejection of the world's people.

KCNA Reports 16-17 Apr 'Aerial War Exercises'

SK1804090593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0822 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors staged joint aerial war exercises of formations of overseas-based fighter-bombers and assault planes with the South Korean puppets against the North in the sky above South Korea on April 16 and 17, according to military sources.

The war game of more than 400 war planes of various types in the skies above Yongwol Wonju and Umsong was aimed to examine the capacity of a joint strike at the North by overseas-based fighter planes and the flying corps of the U.S. Air Force present in South Korea and the South Korean puppet air force.

The flying corps of the U.S. 7th Air Force and the puppet air force launched a joint ground striking exercise in the skies above Pochon, Kapyong and Kanghwa Island while creating electronic jamming by the EH-60 helicopter of electronic warfare.

More than 150 fighter planes of various types frantically launched an air battle exercise in the skies above Tanyang, Kunwi and Muju to take the command of air under different circumstances.

And the South Korean puppets conducted a rehearsal of firing rifles and guns and dropping "commandoes" in the areas adjacent to the demilitarized zone of the Military Demarcation Line.

KCNA Reports U.S. Physician's Letter to Clinton

SK1904064093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0535 GMT 19 Apr 93

["American Personage Demands Conversion of Korean Peninsula Into Nuclear-Free Zone"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—Charles Grossman, member of the National Board of Physicians for Social Responsibility of the United States, in a letter to the U.S. president on April 3 said the recent war rehearsal conducted in South Korea had caused uneasiness and if the United States wanted a peaceful settlement of the "nuclear problem" there was no ground to oppose an inspection of the nuclear bases in South Korea.

If the declaration of Bush last year on the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea is true, there is no reason for the United States to hesitate to accept the inspection of the nuclear weapons, he said, and held that the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone must be carried into practice this year in which falls the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Korean armistice agreement.

Reaction to Nuclear Treaty Issue Continues

Paper: IAEA 'Must Not Follow' U.S.

SK1904105993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 19 Apr 93

["IAEA Must Not Lose Impartiality"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—Some officials of the secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and some of its member nations must not follow the United States, dancing to its tune, but return to its original position based on the principle of justice and impartiality and apologize to the DPRK, demands NODONG SINMUN today.

The paper says in a signed article:

Some officials of the secretariat of the IAEA are acting contrary to the principle of its activity in regard to our "nuclear problem."

This is well illustrated by the unfair acts taken by some officials of the IAEA Secretariat and some of its member nations in the period from the DPRK's signing the nuclear safeguards agreement to nuclear inspection of it and to theadoption of a "resolution on special inspection."

They are under obligation to protect data obtained through inspection under article 5 of the nuclear safeguards agreement. But they transferred them to the United States and the South Korean side, infringing on the interests of the DPRK.

It must not go unnoticed that some officials of the IAEA Secretariat exhibited intelligence information of the U.S. on the DPRK in the conference hall of the Board of Governors on February 22 and launched an anti-DPRK smear campaign without precedent, in an attempt to charge the DPRK with "noncompliance with the safeguards agreement."

This clearly shows that the IAEA, an economic and technological organization, is used in the plots of forces hostile to the DPRK.

The United States is the chief criminal who gave rise to the nuclear problem in Korea and barred the DPRK from implementing the safeguards agreement. If the IAEA values impartiality, it must condemn the United States, first of all, not the DPRK.

Who can trust the IAEA which has thrown away its impartiality and independence without hesitation, following big power?

Daily Asserts Nuclear Issue Not for UN

SK1604092393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0019 GMT 13 Apr 93

[NODONG SINMUN 13 Apr special article: "It Is Not a Matter To Be Discussed at UN"]

[Text] As has been reported, on 9 April, the United Nations Security Council President issued a statement on our nuclear issue following unofficial negotiations. The manner in which these unofficial negotiations were held shows that our so-called nuclear issue is innately unfit for discussion at the United Nations.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught us:

If the United Nations is to be faithful to its charter, it should become an organization which guarantees all the sovereignty of all countries regardless of size.

To impose collective pressure on us with the transferring of our nuclear issue to the United Nations runs counter to its purpose, mission, and charter and is an unfair act. The United Nations is an international organization that came into being for the purpose of maintaining and consolidating world peace and security, peacefully coordinating international disputes, and developing friendly relations among countries.

As the United Nations' Charter specifies, the United Nations's main role and mission are to eliminate threats to peace, destruction of peace, and aggression, and to guarantee world peace and security.

Our withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] was not intended to destroy world peace or threaten other countries' security. It was a self-defensive action designed to defend the nation's sovereignty and the country's supreme interest. Consequently, if the United Nations wants to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula in conformity with its mission and purpose, it should direct its attention not on us, but on U.S. threats against us and work out countermeasures.

The U.S. hostile policy toward us and its maneuver to blackmail us with nuclear weapons created a situation in which nuclear war is imminent. Stark facts show that while we are victim to nuclear threat, the United States is an offender which imposes nuclear threat against us.

If the United Nations wants to defend world peace and security as its charter demands, it should call into question the criminal act of the United States, the originator of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, and take practical measures to remove nuclear threat along charter principles. On the other hand, if the United Nations connives with the undisguised nuclear threat of the United States—the offender—and attempts to unilaterally find fault with us and to pressure us—the victim, it will, far from guaranteeing world peace and security, leave a destructive stain on world peace and disgrace its charter. This kind of act will only inspire the despotism of the United States which tries to behave as the world's leader and international police and to dominate the world. It will also cause a great anger of the world's people who love peace and justice.

Our nuclear issue is a matter which should be resolved not at the United Nations but between us and the United States because it was the United States who engendered the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula by inflicting nuclear threat on us, barred us from smoothly implementing the NPT, and made us withdraw from the NPT.

Our Republic is officially recognized by the world as a peace-loving, anti-nuclear state with denuclearization aspirations. Our Republic has consistently struggled to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone on such fundamental principles and urged the United States to actively contribute to this.

The United States, however, put forward (?a policy) of turning South Korea into a nuclear military base while averting its face from all our attempts at peace and converted South Korea into the largest nuclear war magazine in the Far East with over 1,000 nuclear weapons.

We joined the NPT to put an end to nuclear threat created on the Korean peninsula by the United States. The United States, as a depository state of the NPT, should have renounced their nuclear threat against our non-nuclear state. The United States, however, resumed the Team Spirit joint military exercise this year, which it had suspended prior to our receiving IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspections and increased the nuclear threat to us. Furthermore, it instigated some circles of the IAEA Secretariat to adopt a resolution demanding special inspection in order to disarm us. Thus, the United States gravely infringed upon our national sovereignty and our country's supreme interest by resorting to unfair nuclear threats against us.

The United States is attempting to impose new sanctions against us after our independent withdrawal from the NPT by labeling us for noncompliance to the NPT and for not observing international obligations. The true offender, which should be sued at the United Nations and be subject to international community sanctions in connection with our nuclear issue, is the United States. Whether or not the United Nations maintains its principled position on the United States constitutes a touchstone revealing whether or not the United Nations abides by the principles of international justice and fairness.

The United Nations set a regrettable precedent of failing to live up to principles of international justice and fairness. As a typical example, the United Nations was used by the United States in the aggressive war and division of Korea. In the 2d meeting of the 112d plenary session of its General Assembly held in November 1947, the United Nations adopted a resolution on conducting elections throughout Korea under its supervision, ignoring the Korean people's sovereignty and interfering in our internal affairs. When our people's struggle frustrated such maneuvers, the United Nations adopted a bill in February 1948 at the United Nations Mini General Assembly despite the fact that it is only authorized to make recommendations, on dividing Korea through a separate election in South Korea and thus perpetrated the crime of legalizing the division of Korea.

Manipulated by US imperialists during the Korean war in the 1950's, the United Nations illegally convened its Security Council and decided to form the United Nations Forces Command under the deceptive cloak of collective security and world's peace. It also decided to dispatch troops of U.S. follower countries to the Korean war in its name. Such abnormal incidents in the past between our country and the United Nations have yet to be liquidated. The United Nations should check the despotism of super powers in the international arena firmly based on the principles of international justice and fairness and in conformity with the demand of world people who aspire after sovereignty and thus help peace and reunification in Korea.

Each country should firmly maintain sovereignty in order to make the United Nations more wholesome and democratic. If all the United Nations' member countries maintain their sovereignty, the superpowers cannot have the United Nations arena at their beck and call. Furthermore, they can easily create and develop international relations based on justice and fairness.

As the meetings of the IAEA Board of Governors show, some countries, abandonned their sovereignty by shamefully and blindly following the lead of super powers to commit an act of infringing upon other peace-loving non-nuclear countries' interests. These acts reveal the baseness of these countries which run their state affairs by remaining dumb or by trying to read the minds of superpowers in fear of pressure, while remaining indifferent to their dignity, other countries' interests, and world peace.

The United Nations should play its role of being a fair international organization guaranteeing the sovereignty of all countries in conformity with the demands of its intrinsic mission and charter. If various pressures continue to be applied on us even today when the cold war has come to an end and people's independence has increased, it will result in unpredictable consequences and leave a new, shameful stain on the history of the United Nations.

Daily Denounces Japanese Pressure

SK1704110093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today denounces the Japanese reactionaries for getting overheated in the campaign for nuclear pressure on the DPRK.

The analyst says:

The Japanese reactionary ruling quarters recently blared that "Japan and the United States will cooperate with each other in coping with" the withdrawal of the DPRK from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, saying that it is a "challenge to the prevention of nuclear proliferation". They have gone the length of mobilizing even subsidized media in the propaganda against the DPRK, openly crying that they will submit the socalled "nuclear problem" of the DPRK to the summit meeting and foreign ministers meeting of seven western countries for discussion.

The moves of the Japanese reactionaries show that they are running about like a headless chicken, following the United States in its anti-DPRK campaign under the pretext of "suspicion of nuclear development".

In describing the DPRK's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a "challenge" and crying for its "isolation", the Japanese reactionaries intend to raise a terrific hue and cry over the "suspicion of nuclear development" by the DPRK and the "special inspection" and thus divert elsewhere the attention of internal and external public opinion opposed to Japan's nuclear armament and step up and realise her conversion into a nuclear power behind the curtain.

While clamouring for the "special inspection" of the DPRK, the Japanese reactionaries are introducing and producing a large quantity of plutonium and nuclear material and are stepping up in full scale preparations for manufacturing nuclear weapons.

We did foresee that the Japanese reactionaries, a good hand at fishing in troubled waters with the backing of big powers, might try to get a share by joining in the anti-DPRK racket of the United States, and we never wince at such threat.

We do not provoke others, but we do not pardon anyone who dares to provoke us.

The Japanese authorities must clearly see this and act with discretion.

Cuban Official Urges Negotiation

SK1704050293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—"The Cuban Government has consistently maintained that the grave situation created on the Korean peninsula must be settled through negotiation, not by strength", said Minister of Culture of Cuba Armando Hart Davalos.

The visiting minister told KCNA that Cuba's stand toward the demand of the International Atomic Energy Agency for a "special inspection" of the DPRK had been clearly manifested in a statement of the Foreign Ministry of Cuba.

"We will make joint efforts and cooperate with each other for the solution of the problem of 'special inspection' of Korea through negotiation", he stated.

UN Adopts Ministry Statement

SK1604064093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0557 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—The DPRK Foreign Ministry statement dated April 5 regarding the "resolution" on transferring the so-called "nuclear problem" of the DPRK to the United Nations which was adopted by force by the United States and its followers at a meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, was distributed as official document of the U.N. Security Council S/25538 on April 6.

Dailies Urge 'National Independence' Stand in South

SK1604063893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0534 GMT 16 Apr 93

["South Side Must Take the Stand of National Indepndence"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—The DPRK advanced a 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation at a recent session of the Supreme People's Assembly. The South Korean "prime minister", however, spoke on April 13 as if North Korea did not want reunification, saying it caused "strong suspicion of a move to develop nuclear weapons" to bring the "dialogue" to "suspension" and give rise to "uncertainty and apprehensions" of the international community.

This is an absolute boloney completely reversing black and white, say NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today, urging the South side to take the stand of national independence and refrain from behavior seeking confrontation.

A NODONG SINMUN analyst says:

The first provision of the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation adopted by the DPRK this time stipulates that an independent, peaceful and neutral unified state should be founded through a great unity of the whole nation. To argue that the DPRK does not want reunification is a nonsensical talk that cannot go down with anyone.

The "suspicion of the North's nuclear development" is a false rumor which the United States invented and spread with a view to stifling the socialist system of the DPRK. It cannot be viewed as a correct stance to try to sling mud at the same fellow countrymen, repeating the false rumor spread by outside forces, at the moment when the DPRK is working hard to open the door of reunification through the great unity of the nation, rejecting foreign domination and interference.

As is known to the whole world, the United States and the South Korean authorities are to blame for the deadlocked North-South dialogue. They increased the tensions and spoiled the atmosphere of dialogue by resuming "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises, a nuclear war rehearsal aginst the North.

The South Korean authorities will be well-advised to give a positive answer to the four-point question raised by the DPRK which demands that they renounce the policy of dependence on outside forces, manifest their willingness to get U.S. Forces withdrawn from South Korea, desist from joint military exercises with foreign troops for good and rid themselves of the U.S. "nuclear umbrella", and thus join in the trend of great national unity and reunification.

NODONG SINMUN Denounces South's 'Flunkeyism'

SK1604104193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0020 GMT 7 Apr 93

[NODONG SINMUN special article: "An Act of Antinational Flunkeyism And Treachery to Make the Nation the victim of Nuclear War"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Because of the anticommunist commotions and war maneuvers by the United States and the South Koraen authorities the political confrontation between the North and the South of Korea has become extremely acute and the military tensions on the Korean peninsula have been very aggravated.

The United States and its follower forces which had imposed threat and pressure on us under the pretext of the nuclear inspection issue coercively adopted an unjustiable resolution on referring the so-called our nuclear issue to the United Nations at a Board of Governors meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. This is an expression of the unscrupulous hostile act of the United States and its follower forces designed to isolate and obliterate our Republic at any cost and has aroused surging indignaticns from our nation and the peace-loving people of the world.

The whole nation and the world's consciousness highly assess the decision of the government of the Republic to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as a just self-defense measure and are now strongly condemning the South Korean rulers' antinational flunkeyist and treacherous act in connection with the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula. This is only too natural. The South Korean rulers have acted as a shock brigade in the U.S. nuclear commotions against us. The U.S. imperialists are attempting to disarm us by opening our military facilities under the pretext of suspicion of our nuclear development. Thus, they are attempting to obliterate our Republic.

It is clear to everyone that if we fail to check [choji] such an attempt by the U.S. imperialists a thermonuclear war would break out on the Korean peninsula and, consequently, the whole nation would suffer a nuclear holocaust.

Nevertheless, as soon as some officials at the IAEA put up the illegal special inspection issue the South Korean rulers were perpetrating indiscreet, rash acts of holding a conference of representatives of their overseas diplomatic missions and of sending delegations overseas in an attempt to support these IAEA officials. This is an intolerable flunkeyist and treacherous act. The South Korean rulers' criminal act in connection with the nuclear issue did not begin only yesterday or today. The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula was raised when the United States introduced nuclear weapons into South Korea. The fact itself that the South Korean rulers allowed the United States to introduce their nuclear weapons into South Korea is high treason.

Since then, the South Korean rulers have begged for protection under the U.S. nuclear umbrella. This then has made it possible for the United States to build South Korea into a forward nuclear base, the largest in the Far East, where various types of nuclear weapons are deployed. When the issue of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was being discussed the South Korean rulers put up a so-called declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons in South Korea, far from calling for the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea. Thus, they attempted to mislead public opinion and to help the United States conceal its maneuvers for turning South Korea into a nuclear base. This reveals their criminal intention to conceal U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea, to maintain the remainder of their doomed life as the colonial culprit at any cost, and, further, to do harm to the fellow countrymen on the strength of U.S. nuclear weapons.

The South Korean rulers' antinational maneuvers continued even after a joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was adopted between the North and the South. As was revealed, right after the adoption of the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the United States placed pressure on South Korea to reserve the implementation of the agreed document while clamoring about suspicion of the North's nonexistent nuclear development. Knuckling under to the pressure the South Korean rulers committed the criminal act of renouncing the pledge sworn before the nation overnight.

The South Korean rulers clouded the atmosphere of dialogue by talking about suspicion on the North's nuclear threat according to the scenario of the United States. They went so far as to utter such bellicose remarks as surprise attack, military actions, and the like in a bid to aggravate tensions.

Even after the joint declaration of denuclearization was effectuated thanks to our sincere and patient efforts the South Korean rulers attempted by all means to prevent the agreements elucidated in the declaration from being implemented. Such an act found expression particularly in the meetings of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC].

The meetings failed to reach an agreement on inspection rules because the South Korean ruling bunch desperately opposed our just proposal for overall inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea. Later, they went so far as to avoid holding the JNCC meeting itself to discuss inspection rules.

Facts clearly show that although the South Korean ruling bunch signed the joint declaration on denuclearization against their will, they do not have the slightest intention to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, and that they are seeking only to trigger a nuclear war against the fellow countrymen in collusion with foreign forces while keeping U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea. Such an attempt by the South Korean ruling bunch was vividly revealed when they resumed the provocative Team Spirit nuclear war exercise for a northward invasion together with the United States under the pretext of the suspicion of the North's nuclear development.

The nuclear war exercise for a northward invasion resumed by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have frozen at one time all North-South dialogues which proceeded favorably and led the situation on the Korean peninsula to a dangerous situation in which a nuclear war may break out at any moment.

When we sternly rejected the unjust special inspection maneuvers by the hostile forces including the United States, and decided to withdraw from the NPT, the South Korean authorities began to advance along the road of new treachery. A concrete example of this is the fact that the so-called South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu visited the UN Headquarters, the United States, and Japan to ask them to impose sanctions against us.

The South Korean ruling bunch are recklessly running amok in the scheming nuclear commotion by following outside forces. The purpose of this is to isolate us internationally, and provide a new excuse for a northward invasion to obliterate our Republic and realize their ambition of achieving reunification through a victory over communism by borrowing the strength of outside forces.

The nuclear commotion by the South Korean ruling bunch is in reality an unforgivable criminal act in which they are trying to maintain their power at the price of handing over the nation to become a victim of the big power's nuclear war.

The South Korean ruling bunch are all the more revealing their criminal character as a nation seller and traitor of the nation by working as a shock brigade of the futile nuclear commotion. They should clearly know that they are digging their own grave.

WPK Central Committee Alternate Member Dies

SK1804110793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0900 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Obituary on death of Comrade Han Ki-chang]

[Text] Comrade Han Ki-chang, alternate member of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and deputy of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, had long been ill and died at the age of 65 at 1500 on 13 April 1993.

Upholding the leadership of the party and the leader, Comrade Han Ki-chang had devoted his wisdom and energy to the socialist construction of the country. Comrade Han Ki-chang had worked at major enterprises of the national economy for many years, devotedly struggling to defend and carry out our party's policy on metal industry. He had contributed to rallying the working class around the party at a responsible position of the popular working organizations.

Comrade Han Ki-chang had been endlessly loyal to our party until his last breath. Even though Comrade Han Ki-chang died, his contributions to socialist construction will be remembered for good.

13 April 1993 WPK Central Committee

Kim Il-song Expresses Condolences

SK1904111993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1111 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song sent a wreath to the bier of Han Ki-chang, alternate member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, expressing deep condolences upon his death.

Sihanouk Pays Courtesy Call on Kim Il-song

SK1704085893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Samdech Norodom Sihanouk paid a courtesy call to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. H.R.H. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, and his wife on 15 April paid a courtesy call to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, DPRK president, and his wife.

Attending the occasion were His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Cambodia Kong Sam-ol; Supreme Advisor to the head of the state of Cambodia and the secretariat of the chairman of the SNC Um Manorin and his wife; Vice Minister of Culture of the state of Cambodia Him Chem; and other suite members.

On hand were Vice President Yi Chong-ok; Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and his wife; Deputy Premier Kim Pok-sin; Vice Foreign Minister Cho Kyu-il; Vice Chairman of External Economic Committee Chong Song-nam; and DPRK Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia Kim Hyong-yol.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song had a warm and friendly conversation with H.R.H. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Syrian Delegation Begins Visit to Pyongyang

JN1504190093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, 15 Apr (SANA)—Official talks between a Syrian delegation led by Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and vice chairman of the National Progressive Front, and a delegation representing the DPRK, headed by Vice President Pak Song-chol, began today at the Mansudae Palace of Conferences in the presence of delegation members and Yasir Farah, Syria's ambassador to the DPRK.

During their meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in a manner that serves both friendly peoples and countries, and fulfills their aspirations in accordance with the policies adopted by the two great leaders Hafiz al-Asad and Kim Il-song. They also exchanged views on ways of promoting militant action in both countries and consolidating their joint stands at international forums and conferences.

Dr. Mashariqah asserted that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, supports the DPRK under President Kim Il-song in its just and legitimate struggle to safeguard its independence and sovereignty. He also stressed Syria's support for the DPRK in its persistent efforts to unify north and south Korea by peaceful means. He also pointed to the support the DPRK enjoys from the Syrian leadership, government, and people—stands that confront foreign interference in the DPRK's internal affairs and encounter the pressures and practices aimed at isolating the DPRK and tightening the grip on it.

For his part, Pak Song-chol stressed that the DPRK supports the Syrian people under President Hafiz al-Asad in proceeding with the [Arab-Israeli] peace process based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and for recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. He also stressed the DPRK's support for Syria in confronting the obstacles which Israel is placing to circumvent and abort the peace process. He also explained in detail the circumstances which prompted the DPRK to withdraw from the treaty on nuclear armaments and its genuine desire to resolve the current crisis by peaceful means.

Meets Vice President

SK1604061693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0512 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Talks were held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Thursday beteen delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Syrian Arab Republic. Present on the Korean side were Pak Song-chol, vice-president of the DPRK and Presidium member of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland (DFRF); Yun Ki-chong, minister of finance and chairperson of the Korea-Syria Friendship Association; Yu Ho-chun, director of the Secretariat of the C.C., DFRF; Chang Song-kil, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs; and other officials concerned.

Present on the opposite side were the members of the delegation led by Muhammad Zuhyar Mashariqah, vice-president of Syria and vice-chairman of the National Progressive Front, and Syrian Ambassador to Korea Yasir Farah. At the talks the sides informed each other of the situation of their countries and exchanged views on the development of friendly relations between the two countries and on a series of matters of common concern. The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Kim Il-song Sends Greetings

SK1604064193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0559 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings today to Hafiz Al-Asad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the independence of Syria. President Kim Il-song in the message said today the Syrian Arab people under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party headed by the president are registering many successes in the struggle to defend national dignity and achieve the independent development of the country.

He wished the president and Arab people of Syria greater success in the work for the prosperity of the country and peace in the Middle East. He expressed the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries would continue to expand and develop.

Banquet Arranged for Delegation

SK1704053093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—The DPRK Government arranged a reception for the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic led by Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice-president of Syria and vice-chairman of the National Progressive Front, Friday.

In his speech at the reception, Pak Song-chol, vice-president of the DPRK and presidium member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, warmly welcomed the members of the delegation visiting Korea to celebrate the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

"The friendship between the two countries is most precious and solid as it is based on deep intimacy between the great leader of our people Comrade Kim Il-song and respected His Excellency President Hafiz Al-Asad," said the vice-president.

He noted that the Syrian people under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party headed by respected His Excellency President Hafiz Al-Asad were vigorously advancing along the road of independence chosen by themselves, overcoming all difficulties and trials.

"We express positive support and firm solidarity for your people in the efforts for consolidating political stability and national unity, developing an independent economy, national culture and defence capabilities and solving the Middle East problem in a package and fairly and sincerely wish you greater success in the future struggle," he said.

Speaking next, Vice-president Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah highly appreciated the position of Korea in expressing support and solidarity for the Arab nation in the struggle to attain a noble goal. "This always encourages the Syrian people in the continuous struggle of justice to build a new country and liberate the occupied lands," he added.

Syria fully supports all the reunification proposals advanced by the great leader for reunifying Korea through dialogue and negotiation without outside interference, especially the recently published "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country," he said.

He expressed solidarity with the Korean people in their vigorous efforts to build socialism under the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He stressed:

"We think it a most ideal solution to the so-called 'nuclear problem' of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to settle it not in a threatening atmosphere of 'blockade' and 'sanctions' as claimed by some people, but through dialogue and negotiation, especially direct consultation between the DPRK and the United States.

"Syria hopes other parties concerned will respond to Korea's constructive proposal for negotiation to solve this problem.

"We assure you that we will further develop our friendship in all fields under the leadership of fighter President Hafiz Al-Asad and Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leaders and heroes of our two nations."

Kim Il-song Receives Delegation

SK1904115193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic headed by Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice-president of the Republic and vice-chairman of the National Progressive Front of Syria, on an official goodwill visit to Korea to congratulate him on his birthday.

Present on the occasion were Vice-president Pak Song-chol, vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, director of the Secretariat of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland Yu Ho-chun and Syrian Ambassador e.p. [extraordinary plenipotentiary] to Korea Yasir Farah.

The guests warmly congratulated President Kim Il-song on his birthday and wished him good health and long life.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Gift Presented for Kim Il-song

SK1904114893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1058 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song was presented with a gift by the vice-president of the Syrian Arab Republic who is vice-chairman of the national progressive front of Syria on an official goodwill visit to Korea to congratulate him on his birthday.

Vice-president Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah handed the gift to Vice-president Pak Song-chol.

Gift Presented for Kim Chong-il

SK1904115393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1059 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was presented with a gift by the vice-president of the Syrian Arab Republic who is vice-chairman of the National Progressive Front of Syria on an official goodwill visit to Korea.

Vice-president Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah handed the gift to Vice-president Pak Song-chol.

Palestinian Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang

*SK1604073993 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0602 GMT 16 Apr 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received Hani al-Hassan, political advisor of the president and member of the Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, who is the special envoy of the president of the state of Palestine, and his entourage on an official goodwill visit to Korea to celebrate him on his birthday.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chang Song-kil.

Palestinian Ambassador E.P. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to Korea Ibrahim Mohammad Mustafa and his embassy officials were also present there.

The guests warmly congratulated President Kim Il-song on his birthday and wished him good health and long life.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and had a talk with them in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Gift Presented for Kim Il-song

*SK1704111393 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1028 GMT 17 Apr 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was presented with a gift by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, on his birthday.

It was handed to an official concerned by Hani al-Hasan, political advisor of the president and member of the Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, who is a special envoy of the president of the state of palestine on a visit to Korea.

Cultural Cooperation Agreement Signed With Sri Lanka

*SK1704045293 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0434 GMT 17 Apr 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—An agreement on cultural cooperation between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was signed here Friday.

Present at the signing ceremony on the Korean side were Yi Chol-sin, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and officials concerned, and on the opposite side was S. Gautamadas, a delegate of the Sri Lankan Government.

Kang Song-san Meets Delegate

*SK1804085493 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0808 GMT 18 Apr 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 18 (KCNA)—Kang Song-san, premier of the Administration Council, met and had a friendly conversation with S. Gautamadas, government delegate of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on April 17.

Present there was Cho Kyu-il, vice-minister of foreign affairs.

Marshal Sends Message to Cuban Counterpart

*SK1904064793 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0545 GMT 19 Apr 93*

["Greetings to Cuban Minister of Revolutionary Armed Forces"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—Marshal of the DPRK O Chin-u, minister of People' Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the victory of the Cuban people in the Playa Giron battle.

The message said that the victory in the Playa Giron battle was a historic event which demonstrated the unshakable will an invincible might of the Cuban people and officers and men of the revolutionary Armed Forces to defend the gains of revolution won at the cost of blood and accomplish the socialist cause to the last.

It expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations forged between the two armies would grow stronger and develop and wished the Cuban minister greater success in his responsible work for increasing defence capabilities.

Choe Tae-pok Meets Japanese Stock Company Delegates

*SK1704050593 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0421 GMT 17 Apr 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on April 16 met and had a friendly conversation with the delegation of the SBB stock company of Japan led by director Yoshiyuki Oe visiting Korea to celebrate April 15.

The director said that he warmly congratulated respected President Kim Il-song on his birthday.

He heartily wished President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Kim Yong-nam Meets Iranian Official, Gabonese Envoy

SK1704044193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam Friday respectively met and had friendly conversations with a congratulatory delegation of the Iranian Government to celebrate April 15 headed by Mohammad Hoseyn Ruhi-Sefat, general director in charge of Far East and Oceania of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran and special envoy of the Gabonese President Legnongo Ndumba Benjamin.

Premier Kang Song-san Meets Pakistani Officials

SK1704050393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Premier of the Administration Council Kang Song-san met and had a friendly conversation with the parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan led by Chairman of the Senate Wasin Sajjad at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on April 16.

Present there were Cho Kyu-il, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and Shafgat Ali Cheema, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Pakistani Embassy in Pyongyang.

On the same day, he met and conversed in a friendly atmosphere with the high-level businessmen's delegation of Malaysia led by Yi Kang-nam, managing director of the South Wind Sdn. Bhd. [expansions unknown] at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Ministry Condemns 'Assassination' of South African

SK1704044993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 17 Apr 93

["DPRK Denounces Assassination of G.S. (General Secretary) of South African Communist Party"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in his answer to a question of KCNA on April 16 said that the DPRK regrets the unhappy assassination of Chris Hani, general secretary of the South African Communist Party and a prominent anti-apartheid fighter, and strongly denounces such political terrorism.

He said:

"The assassination of the general secretary of the South African Communist Party is a grave challenge to the South African people who are fighting against racism and for independence and a wanton violation of the dignity of humanity and the right to existence.

"The assassination shows once again that terrorism is the mode of existence of the imperialists.

"To fight to terminate all descriptions of terrorism is a consistent stand of the government of our republic. Proceeding from the fundamental principle of the chuche idea on setting greatest store by the dignity and value of man, we reject all forms of terrorism including state terrorism and, at the same time, resolutely oppose the encouragement and support of terrorism.

"And we support efforts to prevent international terrorism and promote world peace and stability, and hold that disputes between states and nations must be resolved peacefully through dialogue and negotiation.

"Although the international reactionaries are trying to give uneasiness and fear to the peoples who aspire after social progress and independence through terrorism, their acts will face a stern judgement by the progressive peoples of the world who love justice and peace.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Zimbabwean Counterpart

SK1704111993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings to Robert G. Mugabe, first secretary and president of the C.C., the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front and president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, on the 13th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The message dated April 16 noted that the Zimbabwean people under the leadership of President Robert G. Mugabe had made a great progress in the building of a new life since the founding of the republic and were actively working to achieve national unity and prosperity.

The message sincerely wished the Zimbabwean president and people success in the work for the independent development of the country and expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would continue to develop.

Meeting Speakers Note 'Grim Difficulties' Facing People

SK1904061593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0532 GMT 19 Apr 93

["Mass Meetings Held To Support and Implement the 10-Point Programme"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—Mass meetings to support and implement the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" published by the great leader President Kim Il-song were held in the seats of South Pyongan, Chagang, North Hwanghae and other provinces.

The chief secretaries of the provincial party committees who are concurrently chairmen of the provincial people's committees, and representativs of various strata spoke at the mass meetings.

The speakers said that the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation is a great charter of national unity which indicated the most correct way of tiding over the grim difficulties facing our people today and achieving the peace and reunification of the country by the efforts of the nation itself and a great political programme for putting a period to the distrust and confrontation within the nation and realize a broad unity of the whole nation.

Under the rigorous situation created today the only way out for our fellow countrymen is the unity of the whole nation, they said, and stressed that, when the 70 million fellow countrymen get united in one body, they could smash any provocation and aggression at a stroke and firmly defend the dignity and sovereignty of the nation and accomplish the country's reunification successfully.

They said, if the South Korean authorities truly valued the independence and unity of the nation, they should sincerely accept the four-point demand put forward at the recent session of the Supreme People's Assembly—abandonment of the policy of depending on foreign forces, expression of the will to get the U.S. Forces withdrawn, final stop to joint military exercises with foreign forces and withdrawal from U.S. "nuclear umbrella".

Editorial Lauds Kim Chong-il's Election

SK1404002293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0013 GMT 12 Apr 93

[NODONG SINMUN 12 April editorial: "Expression of Our People's Absolute Trust in Great Leader"]

[Text] Today our people and officers and men of the People's Army are tenaciously struggling to further glorify popular mass-centered socialism of our own style, overflowing with a great pride in upholding the great leader [yongdoja].

The Fifth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK, reflecting the unanimous will and desire of all people and officers and men of the People's Army, respectfully elected dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], as chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission.

This is a significant political event in the history of our Republic and of revolutionary armed forces that are advancing under the banner of the chuche idea. This is indeed a great congratulatory event which opened an endlessly bright prospect for the future of our nation and people.

Hearing this exciting news, all party members and workers across the country are overflowing with great joy and firm determination to accomplish the chuche socialist cause and the cause of army building to the end by following the leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Election of Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the KPA, as chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, is the clear expression of the absolute trust in and aspirations of our people and officers and men of the People's Army to their leader [yongdoja].

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Our people, who have travelled the arduous yet rewarding path of revolution and construction together with the party, have trusted in our party and are following the party with firm faith that has been consolidated through their living experience. They entrusted our party with all their destinies.

The sense of absolute trust of the people and the army in the leader [yongdoja] is to be deeply cherished in the course of experiencing the greatness of the leader as one's faith.

From the early days, dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il led the party, the state and revolutionary armed forces at the van by shouldering the destiny of the nation and the people. By wisely leading the historic cause of remodeling the entire party, the whole society and entire army on the chuche idea, he made immortal, brilliant achievements in national history.

In particular, dear Comrade Kim Chong-il made immeasurable achievements on the path of consolidating the nation's defense power with outstanding wisdom and tactics and of strengthening and developing our revolutionary armed forces into one-a-match-for-100 revolutionary armed forces.

Our people and officers and men of the People's Army wholeheartedly learned of incomparable greatness of their leader on the worthwhile path of struggle to uphold the leadership of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il. They have totally entrusted the party and the leader with all their destinies.

As long as there is dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is leading the chuche socialist cause and the cause of army building along the single, ever-victorious road without slightest deviation, we are not afraid of any enemy and but will win the victory by overcoming any trial, no matter how arduous it may be. This is rock-firm will and faith of all of our people and soldiers of the People's Army.

This thoroughgoing faith has become more solid amid today's struggle to smash the enemy's new war provocation maneuvers and to firmly defend dignity of socialism.

Dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il resolutely declared the state of semi-war to deal with reckless maneuvers of aggression by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, and inspired people to display the staunch spirit of chuche Korea which never yields to any threat. Today he is leading the whole party, all people and entire army to the struggle to defend the revolutionary cause. His iron-clad will, courage, and outstanding leadership ability give our people great confidence in victory of the revolution and fighting spirit.

The election of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission reflects the unanimous aspiration and desire of all of our party members, workers, and officers and men of the People's Army whose fighting is motivated by regarding their leader as the pillar of their hearts and the symbol of victory after having entrusted him with their destiny and future.

The election of KPA supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il as chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission by the recent SPA is of great historic significance in developing our people's revolutionary struggle into a new higher stage. A brilliant road is open for our people and the People's Army to inherit and accomplish the chuche-based cause of army building, which was pioneered by the great leader, generation after generation.

Our revolutionary armed forces are the army of the leader and of the party. The leadership of the party and the leader is the source of indomitable might of our revolutionary armed forces. The historic cause for founding and building chuche-based revolutionary armed forces—the new-type army of the working class—was brilliantly pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward a unique idea and line for army building, which embodied the immortal chuche idea, at the dawn of our revolution and founded the first revolutionary armed forces. By leading the revolutionary wars against the Japanese imperialists and the U.S. imperialists to victory, he performed a military miracle unprecedented in the history of mankind.

How to inherit and accomplish the chuche-based cause of army building, which the great leader pioneered and advanced, is the most important issue related to the future of our revolution. This urgent task has been brilliantly resolved by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

By upholding dear Comrade Kim Chong-il in the supreme position [choego suwi] of the revolutionary armed forces, the political and ideological might of our army has been strengthened in every way, blood ties between the army and people have been further solidified, and our People's Army has been fostered into an invincible, powerful army equipped with modern offensive and defensive means.

There has been no time before when the might of our revolutionary armed forces has been strengthened by upholding the outstanding military genius. Our people will soon accomplish to the end the chuche-based cause of army building, which began in the Paektu forest, under the great leader's guidance, on the road of upholding dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

With dear Comrade Kim Chong-il elected as chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, our people will be able to wage more vigorously the struggle to glorify the chuche socialist cause by courageously smashing any threat or agressive maneuvers by the imperialists.

Confrontation with the imperialists is confrontation with strength. The U.S. imperialists are watching keenly for a chance of aggression while directing the spearhead of antisocialist maneuvers to our republic, a stronghold of socialism, and are wildly running amok to realize their brigandish demand [kangdojok yoku] by kicking off a nuclear racket.

The arrogance of the U.S. imperialists, who are attempting to infringe upon the nation's sovereignty through threat and oppression, has reached to an extreme degree. However, we have powerful strength with which to crush all maneuvers of the imperialists. Our people will never be frightened by the imperialists' repressive and forcible acts nor will our People's Army retreat in fear of the enemy's maneuvers of aggression.

Because our people and People's Army are upholding dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is leading the chuche socialist cause and the cause of army building along the single road of victory, at the van of our party, state, and revolutionary armed forces, they have been able to defend the banner of socialism firmly, overflowing with firm faith, will, and courage.

the revolutionary spirit of our people and soldiers of the People's Army is very high. Our people and People's Army, holding dear Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem as supreme commander and chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, are vigorously advancing along the road of loyalty. We will defend and protect socialism of our own style—our life—to the end by smashing all antirevolutionary offensives by the enemy.

The election of the respected and beloved Comrade Supreme Commander Kim Chong-il as chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission is of great significance in more firmly deepening our singlehearted unity in which all the party, all the people, and all the army are firmly united as one. Our singlehearted unity which has been achieved through protracted and arduous struggles is a most precious achievement and the great ever-victorious banner of our revolution. Our people have never been afraid of any trial or any vast task. They have been struggling with courage, faith, and optimism. This is because they have the invincible unity and cohesion which cannot be broken by any force.

Today when Comrade Kim Chong-il, the sagacious leader of our party and our people and the supreme commander of the chuche- oriented revolutionary armed forces, has been elected as chairman of the DPRK

National Defense Commission, the determination of our party members, the working people, and officers and men of the People's Army to resolutely safeguard and defend the center of unity and the center of leadership has become firmer and more invariable.

Today's unanimous determiantion and will of our people and soldiers is precisely to uphold to the end the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership one generation after another, while entrusting the future of the party, the destiny of the nation, and the destiny of army building to him. As a result of this, the might of our singlehearted unity in which all the party, all the people, and all the army are firmly rallied around the dear leader comrade has been further strengthened, and the noble virtue in which the army and the people help and lead each other has been brought into full bloom more brilliantly.

Indeed the election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission at the Fifth Session of the Ninth SPA is not only a great happy event of the whole country and the whole nation, but is also a significant political event in firmly safeguarding, defending, and consummating socialism of our own style. The current happy event in which the feelings of absolute trust and reverence of all the people and officers and men of the People's Army were fully demonstrated will be recorded forever in the histroy of chuche-oriented army building.

Today our people are faced with the important task of realizing the historic cause of national reunification through firm unity of the whole nation and by upholding the great program of great unity of the whole nation announced by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song at the Fifth Session of the Ninth SPA and, thus, to infinitely demonstrate the honor and dignity of chuche Korea.

All party members and the working people should unanimously rise up with new determination and resolution, faith, and optimism to effect great upsurges in all fronts of socialist construction and to turn our socialism into the people's paradise, a better place in which to live.

All party members, the working people, and all soldiers should cherish deep in their hearts the great dignity and happiness of upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission.

The greatness and invincibility of a country and a nation depend on the greatness of their leader. Only when a great leader leads the party and the army and all struggles to defend the country and the nation can the gains of the revolution be firmly defended and the revolution and construction be consistently carried out.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has enjoyed boundless trust and absolute respect among our people and the revolutionary people of the world because of the immortal achievements he has registered for the times, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people.

Upholding the great leader [widaehan yongdoja], who, as chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, has taken it upon himself to lead the destiny of socialism of our style with both literary and military accomplishments, loyalty, and filial duty, is the utmost glory and happiness of our people.

All party members and the people should cherish in their hearts this glory and happiness and, thus, should uphold the party and the leader [suryong] eternally. We should more firmly cherish in our hearts the faith that as long as the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the tested leader of our party, the supreme commander of the chuche revolutionary armed forces, and chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission is with us, no one can provoke the dignity and sovereignty of our fatherland and nation and we can consummate our revolutionary cause to the end no matter what trial we may face.

All party members, the working people, and soliders should also firmly deepen their determination and resolve to more thoroughly implement our party's chuche-oriented army building ideology on the occasion of this current happy event.

Our party's chuche-oriented army building ideology and line are the precious guidelines which should be firmly adhered to in inheriting and consummating generation after generation the chuche-oriented army building cause pioneered by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song. Extensively reflected in these ideology and line are all problems arising in carrying out the army building cause, including thoroughly realizing the party's leadership in the revolutionary army, rapidly enhancing its political and ideological superiority and combat capabilities, establishing firm defense system throughout the country, arming all the people, and realizing kindred ties between the army and the people.

Deeply realizing that the destiny of the country and the nation rests precisely with the thorough implementation of our party's army building ideology all the people and soldiers should struggle, devoting their all, so that the party's army building ideology and line will come to outstanding fruition.

We should firmly arm ourselves with our party's army building ideology and line and should be resolved to resolutely fight against the U.S. imperialist aggressors for the honor of chuche Korea.

All sectors and all units should clearly realize the intent of the party and the demands of the situation, should establish an all-state and all-people defense system, and should maintain a strained and mobilized posture. At the same time, with the current happy event as an occasion, we should see to it that the ethos of attaching importance to national defense and of sincerely helping the army is displayed even more.

The election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as chairman of the National Defense Commission in the significant year which will mark the 40th anniversary of the victory of the fatherland liberation war is indeed felicitous.

All party members and the working people should cherish the great glory and dignity and should effect a new upsurge in all fronts of socialist construction. The historic experience of the fatherland liberation war in which we smashed [chomullichin] the U.S. imperialist aggressors, who claimed to be the strongest in the world shows that people who uphold their great leader have nothing to fear.

All party members and the working people should carry out the revolutionary task assigned by the party without fail by displaying the same spirit and mettle of the heroic Korean people's model of fully displaying infinite loyalty, indomitable devotion, and enthusiastic patriotism during the hard-fought fatherland liberation war.

All party members and the working people should deeply feel that our people who firmly defend and glorify socialism of chuche under the leadership of the great party and the leader are dignified and should uphold the party's cause through their practical successes. Thus, they should record this year, which will marks the 40th anniversary of the victory of the war, as a year which will mark a brilliant chapter in the history of our fatherland.

There will be only victory and glory in the road ahead for our revolution on which all the party, all the people, and all the army are vigoroysly advancing, firmly rallied around the great leader [yongdoja]. Let all of us struggle with courage and faith so as to effect a turn in the struggle to strengthen the might of the chuche fatherland and to accelerate socialist construction.

KCNA Reviews 16 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK1604063193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0542 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry photo-accompanied reports that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of State and Chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia and the Samdech paid a courtesy call on President Kim Il-song and reports that he received a floral basket and a gift from His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Papers inform the readers that President Kim Il-song arranged a banquet in honor of His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and foreign party and government delegations, and carry speeches of President Kim Il-song and His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk at the banquet.

Seen in papers is a photo-illustrated report that the great leader President Kim Il-song called on Comrade Yi In-mo in his sickbed at a branch of the Korean Red Cross polyclinic.

Dailies give photo-illustrated reports that President Kim Il-song received congratulatory visits from a congratulatory group and delegations of the General Association of Korean residents in Japan (Chongnyon), and overseas compatriots.

They carry a message of greetings President Kim Il-song sent to Queen Margrethe the second on the national day of the Kingdom of Denmark.

President Kim Il-song sent the 123rd instalment of educational aid fund and stipends for the children of Koreans in Japan, eports the press.

Papers inform the reading public that the president of the international Taekwon-do federation presented gifts to President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Appearing in the press is a message of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to Comrade Kim Chong-il congratulating him upon his election as chairman of the national defence commission of the DPRK.

Works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were reported by a Nigerian newspaper, according to NODONG SINMUN.

Given in the press is an account of a national joint meeting of organizations of the Korean children's union held to celebrate the birthday of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song.

Papers publish news that Yi In-mo was awarded "Kim Il-song order" with a due ceremony.

Papers print a statement issued by a spokesman for the DPRK foreign ministry hitting out at the remark of the U.S. State Department spokesman that North Korea is intending to manufacture missiles with a range of 1,000 kilometres and deliver them to Iran.

Papers report about the sojourn of foreign delegations and guests in Korea.

They convey voices of people home and abroad supporting the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation.

Press commentaries lash out at the South Korean "prime minister" who alleged that the North caused "strong suspicion of a move to develop nuclear weapons" to bring the "dialogue" to "suspension" and give rise to "uncertainty and apprehensions" of the international community.

Papers mark the 30th founding anniversary of the Sidae Publishing House.

They observe the national day of the Kingdom of Denmark.

KCNA Reviews 17 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK1704053493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 17 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Syrian President Hafiz Al-Asad on the 47th anniversary of the independence of Syria.

Papers carry photo-accompanied reports that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the special envoy of the Palestinian president and his entourage and the delegation of the Workers' Party of Switzerland.

It is reported in the press that President Kim Il-song received gifts from the Gabonese president, the Palestinian president and the delegation of the Workers' Party of Switzerland and floral baskets, gifts and congratulatory letters from foreign diplomatic envoys and foreign embassies here and a ceremony of awarding the certificate of honorary citizenship of Leon city was held in Nicaragua.

Seen in papers are messages of greetings to President Kim Il-song from foreign party and state leaders on his birthday and accounts of colorful functions held in foreign countries to celebrate the occasion.

A meeting of Koreans in Japan was held in Tokyo to celebrate the birthday of President Kim Il-song, says the press.

Papers report that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received gifts from the Gabonese president and the delegation of the Workers' Party of Switzerland.

NODONG SINMUN reports that works of Comrade Kim Chong-il were published in booklet in foreign countries.

The paper informs the readers that rallies were held to warmly hail the election of Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK.

The secretary general of the Indian youth group for the study of the works of Comrade Kim Il-song said the reminiscences "With the Century" of President Kim Il-song is a true textbook of the revolution and construction, according to the paper.

The daily carries a report that Kimilsongia is in full bloom in scores of countries and voices of foreigners praising President Kim Il-song.

Premier Kang Song-san met with delegations from Pakistan and Malaysia, reports the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the Workers' Party of Korea and the government hosted receptions for foreign delegations and gives accounts of the sojourn of delegations in Korea.

Printed in papers is a statement of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Chondoist Chongu Party supporting the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article stressing that the 10-point programme is a great charter of national unity to put an end to the history of division and confrontation and realise national reunification and independence.

The spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry denounced the terrorism against the general secretary of the South African Communist Party, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the chairman of the For Peace and Socialism-the Communist Workers' Party of Finland spoke highly of Korea.

The statement issued by the DPRK Foreign Ministry on the the "resolution" on transferring the DPRK's "nuclear problem" to the United Nations, which was rammed through a meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency was distributed as an official document of the U.N. Security Council, according to the paper.

MINJU CHOSON runs a commentary denouncing the Japanese reactionaries for getting overheated in the campaign for pressure on the DPRK over nuclear problem.

It is reported in papers that the seventh summit conference of the South Asian Association for regional cooperation was held, the Supreme National Council of Cambodia met and Venezuela condemned the interference of the United States in its internal affairs.

Papers observe the independence day of Syria.

KCNA Reviews NODONG SINMUN for 19 Apr

SK1904081393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0600 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a reply message to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People' Republic of Korea, from Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, for his message of greetings to the latter.

The paper reports that the Guyanese president presented a floral basket to President Kim Il-song on his birthday.

Seen in the daily are messages of greetings to President Kim Il-song from foreign party and state leaders on his 81st birthday and accounts of functions held widely in different countries to celebrate the occasion under the bannerline title "best wishes for longevity to President Kim Il-song."

A special envoy of the Egyptian president visited the DPRK Embassy on the mission of April 15 and a central lecture was given in Tokyo by Chongnyon to celebrate the birthday of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song, says the paper.

A symposium was held here to mark the 30th anniversary of the publication of President Kim Il-song's work "on improving education in universities," according to the daily.

The general secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Party of India (Marxist) highly lauded President Kim Il-song in a press interview, says the paper.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent gifts to the Okto cooperative farm in Yonggang County and extended thanks to various units which had set examples in tightening the bonds between the army and the people, reports the daily.

The paper dedicates an article titled "great classic in building socialist literature and art" to the 20th anniversary of the publication of Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Theory of Cinematic Art."

Printed in the paper is a message of greetings sent by the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea to the C.C., the Socialist Party of Chile on the 60th anniversary of its founding.

The paper dedicates an editorial to the 33rd anniversary of the April 19 popular uprising of the South Korean people.

The paper reports that the 11th April Spring Friendship Art Festival closed and festival prizes were awarded to art organizations and artistes of different countries.

Seen in the daily are joint statements issued by the Workers' Party of Korea and the five parties of Bangladesh and by the WPK and the Workers' Party of Switzerland.

People's sportsman Pae Kil-su carried away the gold in the pommel horse at the 28th world gymnastic championships, reports the daily.

The paper conveys world public voices denouncing the "special inspection" campaign of the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] against the DPRK.

The paper informs the readers that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged a joint air and electronic warfare exercise against the North.

"The IAEA must not lose impartiality" is the title of an article of the paper.

The paper in a commentary hits at the Japanese authorities acting a shock brigade in the U.S.-manipulated campaign for pressure on the DPRK over the nuclear problem.

An article of the paper says Playa Giron, Cuba, is the place where the United States suffered the first setback in Latin America.

It is reported in the paper that a Latin American and Caribbean conference for friendship and solidarity with Cuba was held, the chairman of the South centre criticized the western countries's pressure in the problem of debt servicing and the Sri Lankan president called for national reconciliation and unity.

South Korea

More Reaction to DPRK Nuclear Treaty Pull-out

DPRK Officials Urge Dialogue

SK1704143993 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] North Korea has so far called for dialogue with the United States, claiming that the only way to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue is direct dialogue with the United States which caused it. However, the North Korean officials who are attending a symposium at the University of California-Berkeley today expressed a somewhat flexible position that North Korea wishes to resolve the issue through direct dialogue with the ROK and the United States. Correspondent Kim Kwang-sok reports from San Francisco:

[Kim Kwang-sop] The North Korean high-level officials who are attending the symposium on the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula sponsored by the Institute of Korean Studies of Berkeley University expressed wishes to resolve its difficult international position, which resulted from the North Korean rejection of the on-the-spot inspection of the nuclear facilities in North Korea, through direct dialogue with the ROK and the United States.

[Begin recording of Yi Hyong-chol, director of a department of North Korea's Disarmament and Peace Institute] Various complicated problems are entangled now. Therefore, I think that these are the problems the solution of which should be sought through negotiations by each side putting forth its opinion to arrive at reasonable agreement. [end recording]

[Kim Kwang-sok] At a news conference held in the Lutheran Church at Berkeley University, the North Korean delegation expressed North Korea's flexible position as to the resumption of the high-level inter-Korean talks, thereby leading observers to suspect that the attitude of the North Korean authorities may be becoming less rigid gradually.

The North Korean delegation, while denying North Korea's nuclear weapons development or the possibility of possessing nuclear weapons, said that North Korea cannot afford to do so in view of the North Korean economic situation, thus revealing North Korea's difficult economic situation.

The North Korean delegation also confirmed that Kim Chong-il has become the successor to Kim Il-song.

[Begin recording of Kim Wan-su, member of North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Fatherland] Our dear comrade leader has been elected supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and has recently been elected chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission. Therefore, it is clear that he leads the entire Army and the entire country, is it not? [end recording]

[Kim Kwang-sok] The delegates of North and South Korea will attend the symposium on peaceful reunification tomorrow, and (Ronnie Hancock), mayor of Berkeley, proclaimed tomorrow to be the day for Korean reunification.

'Source': Seoul Agrees to U.S.-DPRK Talks

SK1704032493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0311 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Singapore, April 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States have agreed that it is desirable for Washington to have high-level contacts with North Korea as part of its last-ditch effort to persuade Pyongyang to retract its decision to leave the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT] and accept outside inspections of its nuclear facilities, informed sources said Saturday.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu will explain this South Korean-U.S. position to his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, when they meet in Bangkok on April 21, according to a South Korean official accompanying Han on his visit to Singapore. Han was expected to ask China to play an active role in efforts to persuade North Korea on the nuclear issue, the official said.

He said that in this connection, Chang Chae-yong, director general of the Foreign Ministry's North America bureau, arrived in Singapore on Saturday to report to Han on the results of bilateral talks between South Korea and the United States and tripartite working-level talks among Japan, South Korea and the United States in Washington on April 12. The government official, who wanted to remain anonymous, said that reports of possible contacts between Washington and Pyongyang and talks between Han and Qian "can be regarded as a series of recent movements" with regard to the North Korean nuclear issue.

The South Korea-U.S. agreement was seen as a big change since the United States had been reluctant to make a high-level contact with North Korea lest it send Pyongyang the wrong signal. The change of position could be an important development as South Korea and China are scheduled to hold a foreign ministers' meeting for the first time since North Korea announced its decision to leave the NPT.

Han is expected to listen to Qian on Chinese efforts to persuade North Korea at a banquet to be hosted by the Chinese foreign minister in Bangkok on April 21. Han will explain to Qian the South Korean-U.S. position.

The South Korean official stressed, however, that even if the United States did have high-level contact with North Korea, it would not mean that the U.N. Security Council's debates and other international demands for North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program would slacken. The U.S.-North Korean contact itself could be realized only when North Korea sent a signal that it was willing to make some concessions, the official said.

U.N. Security Council sanctions against North Korea would not be necessary if North Korea agreed to withdraw its decision to leave the NPT and if it accepted outside inspections of its nuclear facilities during a high-level contact with the United States, or before or after such contact, he said. It needed to be stated clearly that the United Nations would proceed with sanctions if North Korea failed to do this, the official said.

With regard to the mutual and simultaneous inspection of nuclear facilities between South and North Korea, the official said, South Korea could not give them up even if North Korea accepted inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The official recalled the statement issued by the U.N. Security Council and said that if the security council passed a resolution on the North Korean nuclear issue it had to emphasize the need for the two Koreas to abide by the inter-Korean declaration of Dec. 31, 1991, on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

U.S.-DPRK Contact Scheduled Late Apr

SK1904062993 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 19 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] With the U.S.-DPRK high-level contact to discuss North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] at hand, the 32d U.S.-DPRK counselors contact in Beijing is scheduled to take place around the end of April to discuss North Korea's position and contact level.

A government official said on 20 April [date as published]: "The United States will hold a counselor contact sooner or later to sound North Korea out on whether or not it has changed its position." He added: "The ROK and the United States agreed that the United States will hold the Beijing counselor contact after the outcome of ROK-PRC Foreign Minister talks is satisfactorily conveyed to North Korea.

This official said: "The ROK and the United States agreed that in the event that North Korea reveals its intention to return to the NPT and special inspection of Yongbyon nuclear facilities in its direct contact with the

United States, the United States will accept North Korea's demand on elevation of contact level. He added: "The contact level will be presumably elevated to the one above diplomatic minister. However, the specific contact level will be decided after discussions with North Korea."

This official predicted: "As of now, chances are very high that North Korea will change its position."

DPRK Expected To Take Steps Soon

SK1904012793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0117 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—North Korea may soon take the initiative to solve its nuclear impasse, maybe this week, South Korean officials said Monday. Removal of troops and equipment that took part in the South Korea-U.S. "Team Spirit" military exercise would be complete by mid- week, and major North Korean political events such as leader Kim Il-song's birthday and the promotion of son and heir-apparent Kim Chong-il to the top military post were over, the officials pointed out. This opens the way for Pyongyang to turn to the nuclear issue.

North Korea became the first nation ever to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) last month in protest over the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] demand for a special inspection of suspected facilities. South Korea and the United States are seeking diplomatic negotiations to bring North Korea back to the NPT, with Washington planning a direct high-level contact with Pyongyang within the month.

North Korea has long demanded such direct talks with the United States, and is said to be negotiating with the IAEA as well, the officials said. It had series of contacts with the United States through the Military Armistice Commission at the Truce Village of Panmunjom under the guise of discussing the return of remains of American soldiers killed in the Korean war, they said. North Korea might also initiate inter-Korean talks, the officials said.

This week, Pyongyang is expected to normalize operation of the inter-Korean liaison office. Operation has been disrupted since April 14. Seoul and Washington were preparing for any initiative Pyongyang might take, they said. Chang Chae-ryong, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Bureau, was in the United States last week and Peter Tarnoff, U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, will be in Seoul from Wednesday for consultations.

DPRK's Kang Sok-chu Cancels Visit to Thailand

SK1904014993 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 19 Apr 93 p 2

[By correspondent Kim Chong-tu in Kuala Lumpur]

[Text] Although the visit of North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu was to coincide with ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu's visit to Thailand for the general meeting of the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific in Bangkok on 21 April, Kang's visit to Thailand has been canceled. Consequently, expectations for a possibile North-South high-level contact were crushed.

A high-ranking government official who is accompanying Minister Han said: "The Thai Government informed us that Vice Minister Kang's visit to Thailand was canceled." He added, "Minister Han's unofficial talks with PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen will take place on 21 April as scheduled."

In the meantime, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, who is presently visiting Malaysia, will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Mohamed Mahathir on 19 April to discuss matters of common concern between the two countries, including improvement of relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

DPRK UN Envoy Presence Said To Aid U.S. Ties

SK1704031593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0226 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] United Nations, April 16 (YONHAP)—North Korea has five ambassadors to the United Nations with the arrival of Kim Su-man, who registered with the U.N. secretariat on Wednesday as permanent deputy head of mission. Kim, who arrived April 2, had served in Tanzania, Uganda and Yugoslavia from 1972 through 1981. The four other ambassadors are Pak Kil-yon, Ho Chong, Kim Chong-su and Kim Chung-nam.

The North Korean mission also has three counselors, one first secretary, four second secretaries and one third secretary. Other countries in general have more than one ambassador to the United Nations, but none has five.

South Korea, with a 26-member mission, has two ambassadors. The United States has three and a staff of about 40. It is thought that Pyongyang sees the extra ambassadors as a way to improve relations with the United States.

Observers believe that Pak is in charge of U.N. affairs and Ho, a fluent English speaker, is responsible for contacts with U.S. academics and journalists. Kim Chung-nam deals with Korean residents in the United States and Kim Chong-su's duty is secret, but he is known to be a leading expert on the United States. Kim Su-man, the newcomer, is expected to assist Pak.

Contact between the South and North Korean missions has been suspended for about a year, reflecting relations between the two countries. Until March 1992, relations were cordial and Pak attended a reception marking South Korean ambassador No Chang-hui's departure from the United Nations.

But now, the North Korean diplomats deliberately avoid contact with their South Korean counterparts. Their contacts with diplomats from other countries have also declined as the U.N. community frowns on Pyongyang's nuclear behaviour. The mission used to host receptions in celebration of Kim Il-song's birthday every April 15, but there was none this year.

200 DPRK Troops Said Killed in Building Collapse

SK1604124493 Seoul YONHAP in English 1232 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Beijing, April 16 (YONHAP)—A high-rise apartments building under construction in Pyongyang collapsed last month to kill about 200 North Korean soldiers mobilized for the construction, a North Korean source here in Beijing said on Friday. The disaster occurred on March 25 along the Changkwang street of Pyongyang, the source said.

The source who often visits North Korea said Pyongyang authorities have kept citizens away from the accident zone apparently in fear of people's unrest. He said that as the people grew restless because of the disaster coupled with persisting foods shortage, Kim Chong-il has ordered stepped-up cracks down on complainers.

Kim, who has virtually taken over power from his aging father, Kim Il-song, has also seen to it that more security agents be posted along the China-North Korea border to keep disgruntled North Koreans from escaping to China. Since the early 1980s, North Korea has been building some 50,000 apartment units along major Pyongyang streets. It was learned, however, that a number of serious problems have popped up due to backward architectural knowhow and the insufficiency of construction materials.

Pyongyang Rejects Instant Noodles From South

SK1704011293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0038 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—North Korea, despite a widely reported food shortage, has rejected a bid by a South Korean trading company to sell it instant noodles (Ramyon), officials said Saturday. Chin No International had South Korean Government approval to ship 6,000 boxes of Nong Sim Co. instant noodles worth 83,000 U.S. dollars to North Korea via a trader in Hong Kong, the officials said.

After a report of the deal appeared in the press, North Korea told the Hong Kong firm it would not accept the shipment and asked for noodles made in some other country, the officials said. Pyongyang has a policy of not accepting South Korean food products. As a result, some 5,000 tons of South Korean rice shipped to North Korea in 1991 was sold to China, they said.

"North Korea has shown a sensitive reaction to the press report on the proposed export of instant noodles and the plan was shelved for the time being," a Chin No spokesman said. Nong Sim said it had received a purchase proposal for the noodles, but had not signed any agreement with Chin No.

'Sources': DPRK Oil Supply Decreasing Annually

SK1904011193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0059 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—North Korea's oil imports get smaller every year as its economy deteriorates, government sources said Monday. Oil imports have fallen from 2.54 million tons in 1990 to 1.93 million tons in 1991 and 1.35 million tons last year, the sources said. North Korea's dependency on China for oil has soared to nearly 80 percent.

In 1992, North Korea imported 1,056,000 tons of crude oil from China, 220,000 tons from Iran, 30,000 tons from Russia, and 50,000 tons from Libya. In 1991, it imported 1.10 million tons from China, 750,000 tons from Iran and 40,000 tons from Libya. In 1990, it imported 1.06 million tons from China, 980,000 tons from Iran and 500,000 tons from Russia.

The fall in imports from Iran, which exchanged oil for Scud missiles, seriously worsened the North's energy shortage. Pyongyang had a contract with Iran for 1 million tons of oil a year, but only got 220,000 tons because its Scuds had some defects and it didn't have anything else to barter for oil, the sources explained. A drastic reduction in oil from Russia, a major supplier a few years earlier, added to the difficulty of the situation, they said.

Survey: Businessmen View Inter-Korean Trade

SK1604053393 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 10 Apr 93 p 13

[Report by Cho Hyon-uk]

[Text] Most leading businessmen in our country think that priority should be given to economic cooperation over resolving the nuclear issue, in South-North relations. This has been revealed by a survey of 1,000 mid-level managers at or above the level of section chief of 98 companies in Seoul on South-North economic cooperation. Hyondae Research, a professional survey agency, held this survey from 8 to 13 March at the request of SAHOE PYONGNON, a monthly magazine, which carried the survey result in its April issue.

To a question, "How can the problem of South-North economic cooperation, currently on hold due to the policy linking economic cooperation with the nuclear issue, be solved?" 56.6 percent of the respondents answered, "We must resolve the nuclear issue by prioritizing economic cooperation so as to induce North Korea to change itself."

This view is interesting in that it differs greatly from the government's policy of restricting South-North economic cooperation until North Korea's nuclear issue is resolved.

To the same question, 26.6 percent of the respondents answered, "Cooperation must first be promoted wherever possible since North Korea has already begun to change." Only 14.2 percent said that "the nuclear issue must be resolved by increasing pressure on North Korean prior to economic cooperation" 3.6 percent said they "don't know."

To the question of what they would consider first if their own company were engaged in direct trade with North Korea, the largest number of people, 29.2 percent, responded that, "they would contribute to hastening reunification."

To the same question, 27.6 percent of the respondents said that they would "utilize low-wage quality labor," 21.8 percent said they would "open up and extend markets," and 12.0 percent said they would "secure a bridgehead for business extension," thus displaying typically businessmen-like tendencies.

To a question on the most desirable way for economic exchange, 48.2 percent pointed to "joint venture." Others pointed to "joint operation" (19.2 percent), "processing on commission" (16.4 percent), and "original equipment manufacturing" (13.0 percent).

A majority of 35.8 percent of the respondents regard "labor-intensive light industries" as the most prospective area for investment in North Korea. Other respondents consider "tourism" (26.4 percent), "resources including forestry and mining" (18.2 percent), "transportation and communication" (13.8 percent), and "agricultural and fishing industries" (3.8 percent) as prospective areas.

Regarding difficulties in promoting trade with North Korea, the majority 32.3 percent of the respondents pointed to "shortage of public information." Additionally, "complicated procedures" was pointed out by 29.0 percent, "closed trading channels" by 26.9 percent, "others" by 8.6 percent, and "difficulties in settlement of accounts" by 3.1 percent.

In response to a question obstacles to investment in North Korea, 27.0 percent pointed to "political instability inside North Korea" and 25.8 percent pointed to "ideological conflict." Besides these factors, "unreliability in trade with North Korea," "insufficient guarantee for investment in North Korea," and "inflexible bureaucratism" were pointed to each by about 15 percent of the total respondents.

For the new government"s reunification policy, 74.0 percent of the respondents expect "it will change"—58.0 percent expect a "small" change and 16.0 percent expect a "big" change. Only 22.0 percent said "it will be similar to that of the past," or "there will be little change."

On the government"s reunification policy for the common wealth of Koreans, four out of five (81 percent) responded that "it must be revised or supplemented." To a question as to what must be revised in the reunification policy, 37.7 percent of the respondents pointed to "procedures," 29.6 percent pointed to "principles," and 14.4 percent pointed to "future image of the reunified nation."

Churches To Set Up DPRK Contact Program

SK1604105693 Seoul YONHAP in English 1000 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 16 (YONHAP)—Programs of the South Korean Christian church to come in contact with the North Korean church are expected to be made in church-wide efforts involving both progressive- and conservative-leaning churches. So far, such efforts have been led mostly by the progressive-minded Korean National Council of Churches (KNCC).

The "drive for sharing between the South and the North for peaceful unification" is set to be inaugurated at the Cheil Church at Chong-tong, Seoul on April 27 with the participation of some 500 major protestant churches across the country. A church source said on Friday that the participating churches include both KNCC-membership and non-membership churches, some of them ultra-conservatives.

"Our church, long divided between progressive and conservative loads, seems to have been united in oneness with North-ward programs as a momentum," the source said. The drive for sharing has been in the preparatory stage since last Dec. 8 when an inaugural preparatory prayer service was observed.

As an initial program, the drive plans to stage a mammoth prayer service around the time of the Korea war anniversary in late June or National Liberation Day in mid August. The drive also promotes, through contacts with the North Korean church, a project to send to the North some materials the North Korean church needs. The initial shipment may well be about 100,000 dollars worth of dry milk.

The source said that the most desirable method of delivery will be for the South Korean church to directly hand such materials over to the North Korean church at Panmunjom. But, if the situation won't allow it, the drive doesn't mind making delivery through an international organization like UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), the source said.

Ministry: U.S. Complaining About Austerity Drive

SK1904074093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0647 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—The United States complained Monday about what it worried was the resurgence of an anti-import drive in the guise of an austerity campaign, Foreign Ministry officials said. It reminded Seoul that it had not decided whether to name Korea a Priority Foreign Country (PFC) in intellectual property rights, despite optimistic press reports.

The U.S. concerns, laid out in the 16th Trade Action Group (TAG) meeting, included that President Kim Yong-sam's new economic plan should not label all foreign goods as luxury products to bar their import, the officials said. The complaint was prompted by a press report last week that the small and medium industry promotion corp. will restrict loans to companies that own foreign cars.

Seoul officials explained that the corporation did consider such an action, but decided against it the day after the newspaper report came out. U.S. officials, commenting on a press report that Korea was likely to be excluded from the PFC list, said the decision had not yet been made. The list is due out at the end of this month.

They complained that Korean insurance companies refuse to cover imported blood products. Seoul agreed last year after three years of negotiations to import American-made blood products, but Korean insurance firms refuse to sell insurance coverage for the imports, which cost up to three times as much as Korean blood products.

Seoul is to decide on insurance coverage for foreign blood products by the beginning of next month. The U.S. side explained details of the final anti-dumping ruling on South Korean steel products. June 21 is the deadline for the Commerce Department to hand down its final decision. A last ruling by the International Trade Commission is due within 45 days of the department's final decision.

Businessmen To Expand Cooperation With Japan

SK1704015393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0115 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 17 (YONHAP)—Japanese and South Korean business leaders agreed Friday to expand their cooperation on technology development, with Korea improving conditions for foreign investors and Japan helping develop Korea's industrial technology. Following the 25th joint conference of Korea-Japan economic committees in Kyongju, North Kyongsang Province, a communique was issued that says industrialists of the two countries have a common view that it is necessary to expand cooperation between their industries based on mutual trust.

Korean businessmen will improve the conditions for investment and technology transfer, and Japanese businessmen will help Korea develop its industrial technology and support the industrial technology cooperation foundation. To rectify Japan's huge trade surplus with Korea, the Korean businessmen will improve the industrial structure and make efforts to strengthen their international competitiveness and the Japanese will try to open their markets and improve the competitiveness of Korean companies. The communique called for stronger future-looking cooperation to contribute to the political and economic stability and to the prosperity of Asia and the world.

1st Quarter Current Account Deficit $820 Million

SK1904103393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0956 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—South Korea's current account showed a deficit of 820 million dollars during the first quarter of the year, which compares with 3,240 million dollars in deficit recorded in the corresponding period of last year. The government initially foresaw that the first-quarter deficit would be about 2 billion dollars.

Tentative figures compiled by the Finance Ministry on Monday showed that the January-March deficit broke down to 230 million dollars in trade deficit and 590 million dollars in invisible trade deficit. The month of March alone registered a 370 million dollars deficit—50 million dollars in trade and 320 million dollars in invisible trade.

A ministry official said that the reduced deficit was because whereas exports rose 7.5 percent during the three-month period over a year before, imports declined 4.5 percent due to domestic business slump. Meanwhile, the general balance, which is obtained by adding various capital flows to the current account balance, showed a surplus of 1,460 million dollars during the first quarter.

A year before, a mere 60 million dollars surplus was recorded in the general balance. The surplus was due to the heavy influx of capital such as stock funds (1,020 million dollars) and trade credit (1,030 million dollars) despite the current account deficit.

1st Quarter Automobile Exports Up 97.8 Percent

SK1904122193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1113 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP)—Exports of automobiles, semiconductor and steel products have been surging sharply since the turn of the year. A first-quarter trade trend released by the Ministry of Commerce, industry and energy showed on Monday that during the three-month period, a total of 136,700 automobiles were exported, up 97.8 percent over a year before.

The jump of automobile exports was owing chiefly to the soaring value of the yen currency, recovering economy of the United States, and high demand for cars in China. The automobiles exported in the three months were worth 981 million dollars, a rise of 122.7 percent over the corresponding period of last year. During the period, 18,600 automobiles were shipped to the United States, a number representing an increase of 66.7 percent over a year before.

Automobiles exported to China were no more than 12 million dollars worth in the whole last year. In the first quarter of the year, however, automobile exports to China totaled 151 million dollars, making China the largest market for Korean vehicles in the period.

Semiconductor exports rose sharply due to their short supply around the world. In particualr, exports of integrated process semiconductors jumped 40 percent in the first quarter over a year before.

Steel goods exports in the January-March period reached 1,640 million dollars, up 47.6 percent over a year before. The total included 355 million dollars shipped to China, a rise of 3.5 times over a year before.

Correction to Daily on L.A. Situation

SK1904002993

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Daily Urges 'Fair Reportage' on Los Angeles Situation," published in the 14 April Northeast Asia DAILY REPORT, page 34:

Column one, second sourceline, make read: Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 14 Apr p 6, correcting newspaper name.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Official: Cambodian Security Tops ASEAN Agenda

BK1804015493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Apr 93 p A2

[By Kunchada Chaiphiphat]

[Text] Asean senior officials are to discuss the situation in Cambodia with their counterparts from seven dialogue countries at their first joint meeting on security issues next month in Brunei, according to a senior Malaysian official.

Kamil Jaafar, Malaysian Foreign Ministry's permanent secretary told THE NATION that the Cambodian problem would be one of the topics affecting regional security on the agenda for Asean officials and the regional groupiing's dialogue partners.

The seven dialogue countries include the United States, Canada, European Community, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea, some of them permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The Brunei meeting is in accordance with the direction adopted by Asean heads of state at their fourth summit in Singapore in 1992.

At that meeting, it was decided to begin intra-Asean security dialogues on a regular basis to shape Asean's own security arrangements with dialogue partners.

In the past those sessions focused on economic cooperation.

Senior Asean officials at their meeting in Manila later began regular consultations on security matters, and the upcoming Brunei meeting would be their first session with dialogue partners.

Kamil said worrisome developments in Cambodia warranted serious discussion by Asean despite the regional body downgrading its priority, following the signing of the Paris peace accord for Cambodia in 1991.

"Peace and security in Cambodia are very important to Asean countries as much as to Thailand as to Malaysia because we are very close to Cambodia.

"After all those years of hard work we do not want this to be undermined," said Kamil, stating Kuala Lumpur's position.

The senior official expressed the Malaysian government's hope that certain efforts could be made to ensure not only security in Cambodia but also that the poll be held as scheduled.

Asean's role in the peace process had diminished since UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) took on the peacekeeping role until a government could be elected.

In January Asean Foreign Minsiters issued a joint statement supporting the important role of Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk following the prince's announcement to resign from all his positions.

Minister Views Cambodian Election, Bosnian Issue

BK1804155593 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Malaysia has called on the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to ensure the holding of next month's scheduled election for the sake of the country's survival. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia has confidence in UNTAC for the holding of such election. Malaysia continues to adopt its firm stand that election must be held to solve problems in that country.

Speaking in Kepala Batas, the minister said Malasyia is also ready to extend its assistance, which includes the dispatch of election monitoring officials to ensure smooth election process.

Talking about the Bosnian issue, Datuk Abdullah criticized industrialized countries for their refusal to extend assistance to Bosnia and take strong actions to stop atrocities and bloodshed in that country. Malaysia is unhappy because it can do nothing to help cope with the worsening situation in that country. Datuk Abdullah said Malaysia will continue to use diplomatic channel to urge the United Nations to take stronger action so as to save Bosnia.

Editorial Views Khmer Rouge 'Pullout' From SNC

BK1804100093 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Apr 93 p 12

[Editorial: "Cambodian at the abyss"]

[Text] Nobody who is familiar with the recent history of the country expects the Cambodian peace process, hammered out painstakingly in Paris in October 1991, to proceed smoothly according to the agenda. Nevertheless, the latest blow to the process—the pullout by the Khmer Rouge from the all-faction Supreme National Council (SNC)—will only make an already difficult task seem almost hopeless.

Going by its record this latest step by the radical faction and the cynical reason it quoted for taking it were totally in character. While it has recently caused the deaths of hundreds of Cambodians and so far seven UN personnel, its leader Khieu Samphan said that he and his staff were leaving as they feared for their safety.

Whatever their protestations, this was but the latest of the many negative steps it has taken so far. It refused to disarm, was neither willing to participate in nor allow those in the areas it controlled to vote in the general election to be held from May 23 to 25 and it has been held responsible for kidnapping and killing UN personnel. In short, it did everything in its power to cripple the peace process.

Observers of the scene cannot be said to be caught off-guard by this latest move. Indeed, they should have anticipated it. Nonetheless, its repercussion must be seriously weighed and measures considered to deal with it, for it cannot be anything but grave.

For the Khmer Rouge, this break from the SNC means also a complete severance from the peace process. It will cease its participation in the national reconciliation which the SNC was supposed to facilitate and its departure has at one stroke removed any vestige of restraint on its disruptive actions.

The immediate fall-out is an expected step-up of the group's attacks across the country to sabotage next month's general election. While by all accounts this is not expected to scuttle it, the first after three decades, the long-term prospects for the country are difficult to predict beyond a very uncertain future.

This cannot be otherwise as all the personnel serving under the UN peace-keeping force are scheduled to leave the country after the election, which is supposed to be the successful conclusion to the whole peace process. The question is, if the presence of 22,000 multinational troops has not been able to contain violence, what hope is there for the country once these troops leave?

Indonesia, one of the co-chairmen of the Paris conference, has voiced its grave concern. Its foreign minister, Ali Alatas, brought up the possibility of the country resuming its civil war, which lasted thirteen years previously.

There is, of course, the possibility that the UN will extend the presence of its peacekeeping troops but this is a measure which is easier said than done. Apart from the additional cost, there are already talks among the participating countries to pull out from the operation once casualties start to mount.

For the UN, this mission looks like a repeat of the quagmires in Angola, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Somalia. Reform of the organisation, endlessly discussed, should be carried out without delay.

For the Cambodians, their future is in their hands and the first step they have to take is to elect a strong government which can take firm measures to deal with disorder. The alternative is a return to the abyss from which they have just gained some respite.

ROK Official: DPRK Threat to SE Asia

SK1904101493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0952 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 19 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Malaysia agreed in their foreign ministers meeting here on Monday that North Korea should return to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Visiting Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and his Malaysian counterpart, Minister Abdullah Badawi, also shared the view that China's position will be important in resolving North Korea's nuclear issue.

Yu Myong-hwan, spoksman for the Korean minister, said minister Han pointed out during the meeting that the suspected nuclear development by North Korea poses a threat not only to Northeast Asia but to the Southeast Asian area as well.

He then asked for Malaysia's positive cooperation in political and diplomatic efforts to settle the question.

Malaysian minister Abdullah expressed the opinion that North Korea should be prevented from developing nuclear arms, spokesman Yu said.

On Korea-Malaysia issues, minister Han expressed the hope that the two countries will further expand their cooperative relations, while minister Abdullah asked Han to see to it that Korea will invest more in Malaysia.

Minister Abdullah also asked Korea to understand that the proposed East Asian Economic Council (EACE) which Malaysia has been promoting, is not intended to form an economic bloc but to ensure closer economic cooperation among East Asian countries.

Earlier in the day, minister Han paid a call on Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

Prime Minister Mahathir expressed the hope that during his planned visit to Seoul next month to attend a Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) meeting, he will have an opportunity to meet with President Kim Yong-sam.

Minister Questions EC, U.S. Over Proposed Tax

BK1904080893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0323 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 19 (OANA—BERNAMA)—Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Syed Hamid Albar said the energy tax on petroleum proposed by the European Community and the United States may not be for the protection of the environment but for the coffers of developed nations.

He said the petroleum-producing countries, including Malaysia were worried about the developed countries' proposal to introduce the tax because it discriminated against petroleum.

If these countries wanted to protect the environment, they should not focus on petroleum because there were other fuels like coal which was one of big contributors to pollution, he told reporters here Sunday.

Syed Hamid said the tax would be detrimental to the interests of oil-producing countries as the production costs would rise and the returns of countries using oil for development would be affected.

Syed Hamid also questioned why the tax did not involve coal for which the EC had given many subsidies instead.

The countries concerned should conduct comprehensive tests on energy to determine whether carbon dioxide was the main cause of pollution, he said, adding that the producing countries wanted fair treatment.

According to earlier press reports, the EC countries will impose an energy tax of U.S. $3 a barrel on crude import this year. Under the proposal, the tax will increase by U.S. $1 a year until it reaches U.S. $10 a barrel by the year 2000.

The United States has also proposed a similar tax.

1st Satellite To Proceed Despite Dispute

BK1404151993 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The minister of energy, posts and telecommunications, Datuk Sri S. Samy Vellu, said in Kuala Lumpur today that Malaysia will probably be forced to look for another spot in space in which to place its first satellite—Malaysia East Asia Satellite, MISAT—into orbit if it fails to secure the original position. He said at the moment, one or two countries are trying to put their satellites into orbit at the spot that had been requested by Malaysia. It is reported that a British consortium is also trying to secure the same spot in space.

Speaking to newsmen following a meeting at his ministry, he said the decision on the allocation of spots for putting satellites into space orbit is within the jurisdiction of the Registrar of Frequencies of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

The 625-million ringgit MISAT project had been scheduled to be launched from a town in Guyana, a French colony in South America, at the end of 1994. The ministry had allocated the contract to handle the MISAT project to Bina Riang Sendirian Berhad [Company Limited], which chose Langkawi as its earth satellite station. An American company, Hughes Corporation, will build the satellite, which will be equipped with 12 transponders for telecommunications services, and it will be launched into orbit by French Arianespace.

However, Datuk Samy Vellu said that Malaysia is very confident of getting the spot from ITU. Malaysian officials will hold a series of negotiations with authorities from ITU and other related agencies to ensure that Malaysia gets the desired spot in orbit. He said that preparations for the launching of the satellite will go on even though the permit to secure the spot in orbit has been delayed.

Singapore

Police in Cambodia To Arm on Receipt of UN Order

BK1804103493 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Apr 93 p 25

[By Dominic Nathan]

[Text] The Singapore police contingent in Cambodia can be armed within days if the United Nations authorities in Phnom Penh issued the order, said a senior police official here yesterday.

However, the contingent of 75 policemen from Singapore has yet to receive any such order although a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news bulletin on Thursday said that the UN authorities in Cambodia have decided to issue arms to some of the foreign civilian police serving there.

The Singaporeans are stationed in various provinces throughout the country.

Mr. Soh Kee Hean, head operations planning division of the Singapore Police Force, said yesterday that the Singapore contingent commander in Cambodia had reported he had yet to receive any directive from the UN headquarters in Phnom Penh on issuing arms.

However, Mr. Soh said that if they were so directed, side-arms can be sent from Singapore within days.

He added that the Singapore contingent members were still safe and carrying on with their normal duties.

"Morale is high and there is no loss of enthusiasm," he noted.

Attempts by THE STRAITS TIMES to reach the UN headquarters in Phnom Penh yesterday were unsuccessful.

The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was established over a year ago to maintain peace and supervise elections, which are scheduled for next month.

The role of the 75 Singapore police officers is primarily to help maintain law and order in towns.

The unarmed police personnel are supposed to be protected by the peacekeeping contingent's 15,000 strong military arm.

The BBC reported that the decision to arm the police contingents follows a series of attacks on police personnel their vehicles and their houses, which are blamed on bandits and, in some cases, Khmer Rouge soldiers.

Reports from Cambodia say that the Khmer Rouge had closed the door to the UN peace process, giving rise to concern that the faction would step up attacks throughout the country to sabotage next month's elections.

The Khmer Rouge is also said to have put up posters in north-western Cambodia warning villagers not to vote in the elections and threatening to kill UN peacekeepers.

The Singapore Government had earlier urged all Cambodian parties to ensure the safety of UN personnel on peacekeeping duty in Cambodia, following the death of a Bangladeshi soldier serving under UNTAC last month.

Cambodia-watcher Mike Yeong, a fellow of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, said yesterday that arming the police might help to deter the Khmer Rouge or any other group from attempting any attacks.

However he noted that the rules of engagement should be set out clearly to prevent any accidents involving innocent bystanders.

Cambodia

Khieu Samphan: UNTAC Cannot Ensure Security

BK1904010893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Message from Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea and member of the Supreme National Council, to Yasushi Akashi, chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia; dated 17 April—read by announcer]

[Text] To His Excellency Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN Secretary General and head of UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], Phnom Penh:

Your Excellency, I have received your letter dated 14 April. In this letter, you said you will ensure security for me in Phnom Penh. My security, however, and that of my colleagues from the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] have remained threatened for the last 17 months. I would like frankly to inform you that UNTAC cannot ensure security for us because the UNTAC staff themselves have no security; the people also do not have security. Members of various political parties also have no security. You yourself threatened me and the PDK during the Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting and said that we are illegal bandits. Hun Sen also openly said at the SNC meeting and in front of you yourself that I should be arrested and that UNTAC should kill me.

You remember the event of 27 November 1991. The fact is that UNTAC policy refuses to verify that Vietnamese aggressor forces have withdrawn from Cambodia and refuses to let the SNC have any role. Even Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, has not been given any role by UNTAC; he has not been given any rights. UNTAC also has not controlled the five ministries, and so on.

The UNTAC policy to maintain Vietnamese forces in Cambodia and to maintain and assist Vietnam's puppet regime has focused on cooperation to harass, check, pressure, and accuse Democratic Kampuchea in order to eliminate it. These policies have provided encouragement to Vietnam and its puppets and enabled them to carry out terrorist activities at will. UNTAC cannot ensure security for the PDK as long as these policies, which are against and in violation of the Paris agreement, are not changed. UNTAC cannot even provide security for some of its personnel.

Please accept my highest consideration.

[Dated] 17 April

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, PDK chairman and SNC member

DK Office Staff Thanks People for Support

BK1904023693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Apr 93

["Message from the personnel of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea office in Phnom Penh to compatriots in Phnom Penh" from the liberated zone, dated 16 April—read by announcer]

[Text] We, the personnel of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] office in Phnom Penh, would like to inform the clergy, compatriots, people, students, pupils, teachers, professors, and intellectuals in Phnom Penh that all of us, including His Excellency Khieu Samphan, PDK chairman and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], ended our mission in the SNC in Phnom Penh on 11 April 1993 and have returned to our Democratic Kampuchea base. We left Phnom Penh City with a very heavy heart because we will miss the compatriots we have known for 17 months in Phnom Penh.

The Vietnamese aggressors, Vietnam's puppets, and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], have colluded with one another to destroy the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. They have carried out political terrorist activities to kill the people and created endless big and small obstacles to intimidate and threaten us right from the first day we arrived in Phnom Penh in November 1991. You are all aware of this.

We worked in a very stifling atmosphere with obstacles and dangers during the past 17 months. The Vietnamese aggressors, athough they have been forced to sign the Paris agreement, have not abandoned the policy to expand and annex territory and to exterminate our Cambodian race. The Chea Sim-Hun Sen-Heng Samrin group is betraying and selling the nation; they are Vietnam's out-and-out lackeys. As for UNTAC, it has colluded with the Vietnamese aggressors and has only enjoyed Vietnamese women. It defended Vietnamese settlers and allowed them to flow into Cambodia. Compatriots are aware of all this.

We remain absolutely faithful to the cause of the nation and to our people and race despite struggling in such a tense situation. We have made efforts to implement the Paris agreement and to demand that everyone implements the Paris agreement correctly; that the SNC has a role; that Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, has rights and power; and to cooperate with UNTAC and to verify that the Vietnamese aggressors are withdrawn from Cambodia. We have again and again made these demands at SNC meetings and at talks outside the SNC. These people, however, not only have remained indifferent, but have also constasntly accused us of this and that in order to intimidate us to remain silent and to allow the Cambodian nation to be killed, the Cambodian race exterminated, and the bone marrow of our nation and people sucked at will.

In this arduous struggle, however, compatriots in and outside the country, compatriots in Phnom Penh in particular, have not left us alone. They have expressed sympathy and political gestures to firmly and persistently assist us. We have fought together for the common cause to liberate our nation. All these sentiments to provide moral and physical assistance are very precious; we will never forget them and will remember them forever. The sound of compatriots' recommendations for us and also expressing confidence in us to achieve the ideal to liberate the nation and ensure the survival of Cambodian nation and race reverberates in our ears.

Our experiences together in Phnom Penh in the past 17 months clearly show that the Cambodian nation and people absolutely do not bow to the enemies of the Cambodian nation and race. We will fight together and we will certainly win. The enemies will certainly be defeated.

[Dated] Liberated zone, 16 April

UNTAC Soldier Killed in Khmer Rouge Attack

BK1904042693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0402 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 19 (AFP)—A large group of Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked a village west of the capital early Monday, killing one Bulgarian U.N. peacekeeper and injuring two others, a U.N. spokesman said.

The Bulgarians were arriving at the scene of the attack in an armoured personnel carrier when the guerrillas attacked with an anti-tank grenade, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

One Bulgarian died and two others were injured, one seriously. They were taken to the U.N. hospital in Phnom Penh, he said.

The attack began at 2:30 a.m. (1930 GMT Sunday) and lasted two hours. It was apparently aimed at a Phnom Penh government army position in the village of New Oral, Falt said.

UN Spokesman: UNTAC Not Target

BK1904085893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 19 Apr 93

[By Sherri Prasso]

[Text] PHNOM PENH, April 19 (AFP)—A large group of Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas attacked a village just west of the Cambodian capital early Monday, killing one Bulgarian U.N. peacekeeper and injuring two others, a U.N. spokesman said.

"According to the first information we received, the attack was directed against the (government army) position located there," U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) spokesman Eric Falt said.

"It does not appear that UNTAC ... was the target," he said.

The death brings the total of Bulgarian casualties in recent Khmer Rouge attacks to four dead and seven injured.

Elsewhere, in northwest Cambodia, gunmen from a Khmer Rouge village shot through the cockpit of a U.N. helicopter Sunday, forcing it to make an emergency landing in a field near the Thai border. No one was injured, Falt said.

In Monday's attack, the 150 Khmer Rouge guerrillas set upon the village in Kompong Speu province, 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of Phnom Penh, about 2:30 a.m. with mortar rounds, B-40 rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons, he said.

When Bulgarian peacekeepers arrived at the scene in an armoured personnel carrier (APC) in response to an appeal from colleagues in the village, the guerrillas attacked it with an anti-tank grenade, Falt said.

One Bulgarian inside the APC were killed and two others were injured, one seriously. They were taken to the U.N. hospital in Phnom Penh, where one was treated and released and the other was in stable condition with shrapnel wounds in the back, he said.

The Khmer Rouge set fire to the village, but the casualties among Cambodian civilians were not known, he said.

The Phnom Penh government forces were able to repel the attack about 5 a.m., Falt said.

Three Bulgarians and two U.N. civilian police who were guarding the U.N. electoral office in the village had radioed for help, prompting the dispatch of two APCs, the spokesman said.

None of the five inside the office was injured, and Falt said the house was not damaged.

The electoral staff had already left the village before the attack, Falt said.

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi met with the Bulgarian military chief of staff who is visiting Phnom Penh to offer his condolences, the spokesman said.

Kompong Speu has been the scene of recent trouble between Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh government forces, as well as attacks on the Bulgarians who are in charge of security there.

The village, called New Oral, is 20 to 30 kms (12 to 19 miles) south of the scene of two recent attacks on Bulgarian peacekeepers. On April 2, Khmer Rouge soldiers enjoyed a pleasant dinner with the Bulgarians then opened fire on their hosts, killing three and injuring three.

Two of the most seriously injured from that attack remain in a Bangkok hospital, Falt said.

Shortly after that, Khmer Rouge guerrillas machine gunned a sentry post outside the Bulgarian base nearby, paralyzing the sentry.

On March 24, armed soldiers who were not identified by UNTAC at the time attacked New Oral and shot a Bulgarian peacekeeper.

Falt said the attack was most likely to have been carried out by the Khmer Rouge.

UNTAC maintains that despite the deaths of eight peacekeepers in hostile action within the last month, no clear pattern has emerged regarding the killing of U.N. personnel ahead of U.N.-organized elections scheduled May 23-27.

UNTAC is proceeding with preparations for the election as planned, despite the Khmer Rouge's insistance that they will not accept the result and refusal to rule out violence to disrupt the poll.

Khmer Rouge Spokesman Holds New Conference

Wants SNC To Meet Outside Phnom Penh

BK1704113293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 17 Apr 93

[By Patrick Lesco]

[Text] PHOUM MALAI, Cambodia, April 17 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge reaffirmed Saturday that they would not recognise the results of the upcoming Cambodian elections and refused to rule out resorting to more violence.

During a press conference in a Khmer Rouge-controlled zone, a few hundred metres from the Thai border, spokesman Mak Ben justified the group's decision to withdraw its representatives—together with leaders Khieu Samphan and Son Sen—from the capital Phnom Penh last Tuesday.

The Khmer Rouge remained "strongly committed" to the Paris peace accords and still considers itself a member of the Supreme National Council (SNC), the national reconciliation body headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk which includes the four major Cambodian factions, Mak Ben said.

Underlining the Khmer Rouge's loyalty to Prince Sihanouk, Mak Ben called for future SNC meetings to be held outside Phnom Penh: "Any place where there is security, where the situation is calm for discussions and negotiations."

Mak Ben, speaking exactly 18 years after Phnom Penh fell to the Khmer Rouge, refused to rule out the use of force by the group during the electoral campaign in the run-up to polling between May 23-27.

The United Nations has blamed the guerrillas for killing six members of the U.N. operation and for carrying out a murderous campaign of ethnic cleansing against ethnic Vietnamese living in Cambodia.

"The Cambodian people will not recognise these elections," he said, again accusing the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and its head, Yasushi Akashi of being the servants of Vietnam and its "puppet" regime in Phnom Penh.

"The Vietnamese and their puppets have even now become the masters of UNTAC," he said, adding "actually, these elections are organized in order to keep in place the Vietnamese-installed regime. The results are already set in advance to help the puppets obtain 70 to 80 percent of the votes. The remaining will be distributed among those parties which have accepted to take part."

During his visit to Phnom Penh April 7-8, U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said the U.N. Security Council would scrutinise the results of the election and that the 4.7 million electors identified by UNTAC among the population of eight million represented "Cambodia's true electorate."

Asked several times about the violent attacks the Khmer Rouge are accused of, Mak Ben eventually said "it is not our policy to do any harm to UNTAC personnel."

But he added there were "good and bad people" in UNTAC, the bad ones being those who support the "Vietnamese occupation," among whom he included Akashi.

The Khmer Rouge hoped to get UNTAC "back on the right track of the peace agreement (...) in order to check the Vietnamese withdrawal."

Hanoi has said that it has withdrawn all its troops from Cambodia.

Khieu Samphan and Son Senn, the group's two representatives on the SNC, were not present at the conference. After leaving the capital the two are now in a zone controlled by the Khmer Rouge, Mak Ben said, without giving details.

States Conditions

BK1704152593 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent]

[Text] After the Khmer Rouge closed its office in Phnom Penh and had its SNC [Supreme National Council] officials return to the Khmer Rouge stronghold in Battambang on 13 April claiming lack of security as the reason, several countries and people around the world have expressed concern that the Khmer Rouge might pull out of the SNC. Today, the Democratic Kampuchea [DK], or the Khmer Rouge, held an official news conference for about a hundred foreign and Thai correspondents, in Ban Phoum Tong, Malai District, Battambang Province, which is close to the Thai-Cambodian border.

Mak Ben, DK spokesman, was assigned by Khieu Samphan to repeat to foreign correspondents that the Khmer Rouge office in Phnom Penh was closed for reasons of safety of its officials and that the Khmer Rouge has not quit the SNC. The question of its return to Phnom Penh depends on how safe the situation is in Cambodia. Anyway, the DK will not refuse to participate in any SNC meetings, whether it is held in or outside the country.

The Khmer Rouge spokesman said the Khmer Rouge would not participate, but would oppose to the election in May because it is unfair—there are more than 2 million Vietnamese soldiers and civilians in Cambodia, and 1.3 million of them have been registered as eligible voters by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. This election is therefore a setup to legalise the administration of the puppet regime of Vietnam.

[Begin Mak Ben recording in English] The Cambodian nation and people are clearly aware that the elections held in such conditions would [word indistinct] legalise Vietnam's occupation and annexation of Cambodia, and would spare the best of Cambodia as a nation and people. For these abovementioned facts are the fundamental factors that have led the DKP [Democratic Kampuchea Party] to decide not to parcipate in the UNTAC-organized elections. [end recording]

However, the Khmer Rouge will again fully contribute to the Cambodian peace process if UNTAC abides by the Paris peace accords matter-of-factly—through the control of foreign forces in Cambodia, the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, and the transfer of a genuine power to Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Although there has been no report about opposition by the Khmer Rouge against the elections next month, the Khmer Rouge reaction by closing its office in Phnom Penh already indicates that this could be a new twist leading to a failure in the Cambodian peace process.

Further on News Conference

BK1804011493 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 18 Apr 93 p 4

[By Anurat Maniphan in Phoum Malai]

[Text] The Khmer Rouge yesterday reiterated their opposition to United Nations-organised elections in Cambodia next month and left open the possibility of their using force to disrupt the event.

Khmer Rouge spokesman Mak Ben claimed the elections were designed to "keep in place the Vietnamese-installed regime" with the party fielded by Phnom Penh set to win 70-80 per cent of the votes.

The Democratic Kampuchea Party (DKP) will not participate in, categorically opposes and will not accept the results of such an "unfair," and "undemocratic" election held "in violation of the Paris agreement," Mak Ben told a press conference yesterday.

"We will do everything to have the Paris agreement implemented correctly, comprehensively, in all provisions," he said, when asked if force would be used to block the elections.

He insisted on satisfaction of the Khmer Rouge demand for verification of the Vietnamese departure from the country, emphasising that it was a provision of the peace agreement signed in Paris on October 23, 1991.

Vietnam, which spearheaded the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge in January 1979 and kept troops in Cambodia in support of Phnom Penh throughout the war, maintains that it completed the withdrawal of its armed forces in September 1989.

Mr Mak Ben was addressing the first press conference since Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan led the rebels' exit from Phnom Penh on April 12 citing the insecure situation in the Cambodian capital.

The spokesman at the same time reaffirmed the Khmer Rouge's support for Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk's call for a four-party government of national reconciliation.

He said the group would also "welcome" any initiative for fresh negotiations towards national reconciliation.

But the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has made it clear that it will go ahead with the elections, set for May 23-28, despite an upsurge of politically-related violence over the past month.

Six UNTAC personnel and dozens of ethnic Vietnamese have died in the violence.

Mr Mak Ben said the DKP did not have any policy to harm UNTAC personnel but he stopped short of denying the group's involvement in any of the attacks.

He said the DKP left Phnom Penh after the official launch of the electoral campaign and would not return to the capital because of the insecurity and the absence of a neutral political environment.

"We have dearly stated that we are not involved with the UNTACist elections," Mr Mak Ben said.

"Those elections are organised in order to keep in place the Vietnamese-installed regime in accordance with the result already set in advance to have the puppets obtain 70-80 per cent of the votes," he charged.

Repeating the Khmer Rouge claim that 1.3 million registered voters are Vietnamese settlers, he said the elections "would only legalise Vietnam's occupation and annexation of Cambodia and would spell the death of Cambodia as a nation and it's people."

The Cambodian People's Party (CPP) fielded by Phnom Penh is one of 20 political parties contesting the first multi-party elections since 1972.

UNTAC has said 4.7 million people out of Cambodia's total population of eight million have registered to vote.

The DKP would be "betraying the ideals of the Cambodian people's struggle" and "committing treason against the nation" if it were to participate in these elections, he said.

But he confirmed that the DKP remains part of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia, which brings together all four main Cambodian factions.

The strengthening of the SNC, the assertion of "direct control" by UNTAC over five major administrative areas and the verification of the Vietnamese withdrawal remain the DKP's main demands, the spokesman said.

The "major fields" said to have been left under Phnom Penh's control are national defence, public security, foreign affairs, finance and information.

The next SNC meeting could be held "any place where there is security," Mr Mak Ben said.

The meeting should address what he called the "real issue" of the Cambodian conflict, the question of verifying the Vietnamese departure.

Mr Mak Ben accused Vietnamese "forces of aggression" and their "puppet" of instigating "acts of intimidation" in Cambodia.

He cited UNTAC authorities as admitting that these groups were behind recent "killings" in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Kampot, Koh Kong and Prey Veng.

He denounced the imposition of sanctions as "immoral" attempts to eliminate "the resistance of the Cambodian people."

The UN has endorsed sanctions against the export of logs and gems from Cambodia in an attempt to put the Khmer Rouge back on the peace track.

The rebels refused to disarm and denied UNTAC access to their zones long before they decided to boycott the elections.

The press conference held in a "liberated area" close to the Thai border, coincided with the 18th anniversary of the Khmer Rouge takeover of Phnom Penh on April 17, 1975.

The radical Maoists are held responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people while they tried to build a new agrarian society in Cambodia during the three years and nine months that they were in power.

Radio VGNUFC Reports

BK1904012893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Ambassador Mak Ben, spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], held a news conference at the PDK base on 17 April.

He said that the election UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] is currently planning is a fishy one to preserve the Vietnam puppet regime and maintain Vietnamese aggressor forces to allow them to continue occupying Cambodia. This election is betraying the Cambodian people's cause to struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors and the puppets, Vietnam's lackeys, to liberate and to defend the Cambodian nation and race, and for Cambodia to regain peace, independence, and national reconciliation. In other words, the UNTAC election is an act betraying the nation and selling the Cambodian nation and people to Vietnam as well as allowing Vietnam to annex Cambodia through the Indochinese federation strategy.

The spokesman said that the PDK categorically opposes the UNTAC election because:

1. UNTAC, the Vietnamese aggressors, and Vietnam's puppets have not implemented the Paris agreement and have violated and destroyed the agreement;

2. UNTAC has not verified that Vietnamese aggressor forces have withdrawn from Cambodia;

3. UNTAC has not given any role to the Supreme National Council [SNC] as stipulated in the Paris agreement;

4. UNTAC has not taken over and controlled the five major ministries and has allowed the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets to do what they want; and

5. Old and new Vietnamese aggressor forces, military and civilian, continue to decide everything. UNTAC has allowed a flow of over 2 million Vietnamese nationals into Cambodia—over 1.3 million are holding Cambodian identity cards and have been allowed to vote. These Vietnamese are part of the policy to Vietnamize Cambodia, annex Cambodian territory, and exterminate the Cambodian race. UNTAC has colluded with the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and allowed them to carry out political terrorist activities to intimidate, threaten, and kill the Cambodian people and members of various political parties at will. This has created and intensified an atmosphere of constant insecurity.

The Cambodian nation and people are direct victims of these fascist activities and clearly realize the danger to the survival of the Cambodian nation, people, and race resulting from UNTAC's ill prepared and unjust election. Therefore, the Cambodian people vehemently oppose and reject it.

Answering reporters' questions, the PDK spokesman said that the PDK continues to support and implement the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. The party also wholehertedly assists and supports the peace plan and the four-party national reconciliation proposed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, to restore Cambodia's peace, independence, and sovereignty with territorial integrity recognized by the world before 1970.

Khieu Samphan Grants Interview on Peace Process

BK1804101793 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Interview with Khieu Samphan by Nate Thayer on 4 April carried in 9 April issue of the PHNOM PENH POST—read by announcers]

[Text] [Thayer] What is your opinion concerning the peace process?

[Samphan] The reasons for our nonparticipation in the electoral process are clear. I would like to point out that we continue to abide by the Paris agreement. We will participate in the elections on the condition that the Paris agreement is implemented correctly. So far there has been no implementation of the Paris agreement, therefore the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] elections are in violation of the Paris agreement. UNTAC elections will be held in a situation where the Vietnamese aggressor forces are still occupying Cambodia and where there is no neutral political atmosphere, no peace, no security.

[Thayer] What is your opinion regarding the election campaign?

[Samphan] Four days from now the formal election campaign will start so FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, and other political parties which are not Vietnamese puppets will be facing new critical issues as follows: Will they be able to participate in the election campaign in such a situation where there is no neutral political atmosphere, no peace, no security? If they join the election campaign, will they be able to touch upon such an important question as national independence and territorial integrity; the question of the presence of all categories of Vietnamese forces in Cambodia; the question of the expropriation of our land by the Vietnamese settlers; the question of the fishing areas which have all been plundered by the Vietnamese; the question of the returnees who, upon reaching their native villages, have found out that their villages have all been confiscated by the Vietnamese or the puppets who then accused them of being the misled persons?

All these are the issues affecting the Cambodian nation itself. Will those political parties dare to touch on these questions? The answer is clear, they cannot. If they raise these issues, they will certainly be attacked by the Vietnamese and their puppets. If they do not raise these issues, what should they talk about in their electoral campaign? Is this a free election? Therefore, those political parties will be faced with all these issues and must decide whether they should join or withdraw. I am convinced that those political parties will not rubber stamp the election that will kill the Cambodian nation. This is my firm conviction. Next month it will be clear that such elections cannot be held.

[Thayer] What is your opinion concerning the economy?

[Samphan] The Cambodian people both in the countryside and in Phnom Penh have rejected the puppets' riel. Now, even the foreign traders or businessmen are closing their shops and leaving Cambodia. As a result, the puppets' riel has plunged rapidly. In such a situation, the Cambodian people are very angry. The puppet army soldiers also feel the same. The puppet army soldiers have not been paid for many months. When they do get some salaries, they cannot use the riel. This has led to the mutinies by the puppet army soldiers in Kompong Thom and Siem Reap. On 1 April, over 100 Cambodian soldiers in Battambang fled to join our armed forces.

[Thayer] What is your opinion regarding the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia?

[Samphan] Concerning this Vietnamese issue, the Cambodian nation as a whole has reached a unified view that the entire Cambodian people cannot accept the UNTAC election because it would be tantamount to handing over Cambodia to Vietnam. In Phnom Penh, there have been grenade attacks on the Vietnamese. It is not the party of Democratic Kampuchea [DK] which has launched that grenade attacks. The situation has become more and more tense every day. The activities against the Vietnamese in Phnom Penh and other places will certainly increase. There were grenade attacks on the statue of Vietnamese-puppet special friendship erected by the Vietnamese in front of Botum Monastery. This is a new situation showing the people's opposition to the Vietnamese and their puppets who were in the past the main figures who lobbed grenades on or attacked the people. But the situation now is that the people and the puppet soldiers have launched attacks against the Vietnamese. This is the result of the non-implementation of the Paris agreement. Things have turned that way because there has been no implementation of the Paris agreement, no verification on the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese from Cambodia.

[Thayer] What do you think about UNTAC?

[Samphan] I think that all the situations mentioned above have led the world community to understand that the real goal of the UNTAC election is to legalize the Vietnamese puppet regime. At present, UNTAC fears that this Vietnamese puppet regime will collapse before the election. This is why the UNTAC chief has tried hard to pressure the Supreme National Council and Prince Norodom Sihanouk to request loans of U.S.$65 million from the World Bank to rescue the puppet regime. Prince Norodom Sihanouk refused to sign this loan. The UNTAC leaders hope that after the election, once the legality is provided to the puppet regime, the World Bank will deal directly with this Vietnamese puppet regime. We have taken a clear position with regard to this matter, that is we oppose the request for loans from the World Bank. This is also a clear proof attesting that UNTAC has sided and colluded with the Vietnamese and the puppets in order to maintain the puppet regime.

Concerning your question on whether the DK considers UNTAC its enemy, my answer is, no. But what UNTAC has been doing is a violation of the Paris agreement. It has committed a great wrong against the Cambodian nation and people. The Cambodian nation and people as well as history will judge UNTAC.

[Thayer] What is your opinion regarding the killing of UNTAC officials?

[Samphan] As far as the attack against the Bangladesh camps in Siem Reap is concerned, in which one Bangladesh soldier was killed, as you know, up to now our relationship with the soldiers from Bangladesh as well as other Third World countries, such as Indonesia and Pakistan, has been very good and cordial because these Third World countries have no interest in killing the Cambodian nation. They only want Cambodia to achieve peace because their countries are facing the same problems as Cambodia. That is, they are bullied by the big western countries. You also know that a Bangladesh soldier was killed in Phnom Penh. Was this the work of the DK? No.

As for the incident in Angkor Chum, Siem Reap Province, UNTAC itself told our military officers in Phnom Penh that there are puppet army barracks near the Bangladesh units' camps. The UNTAC said that an outside unit attacked the puppet soldiers' camps and barracks for three hours and that the puppet soldiers did not fire back a single shot. They added that a Bangladesh soldier was killed. The fact that the puppet soldiers did not shoot back at the attackers is a factor to consider. The problem is, as you know, that whatever happens, they always automatically and immediately put the blame on DK. I would like to stress to you that the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] is a highly disciplined army. The fact that our NADK arrested and then released UNTAC personnel showed that our army has very good dicipline and our orders are clear—even if UNTAC personnel come to our zone to spy on us, we will arrest and send them back.

If there is a Cambodian tripartite participation, the DK will be in it. If there are four parties, there will certainly be peace in Cambodia. The prince has put forward a plan for solving the current crisis. But UNTAC and the Western powers oppose it. When I refer to Western powers, I mean to include Japan. If the Western powers continue what they have been doing over the last 17 months, the situation will become even more tense, worsen even more seriously. If so, the Cambodian people will get even more angry against the Vietnamese and will take action by themselves.

[Thayer] What do the Khmer Rouge want?

[Samphan] We support the efforts of the prince. We want the Vietnamese to withdraw from Cambodia so we can achieve genuine national reconciliation. If there is national reconciliation, I would like to tell you that after the Vietnamese withdrawal, we will not demand any portfolios. I would like to make it clear once again that the DK does not want to come back to power.

Concerning violence and stability in the coming weeks, if the western powers do not change their positions nor begin to correctly implement the Paris agreement, the Cambodian people will have no other choice but to lob grenades on the Vietnamese. At present, the people in Phnom Penh have been striving to carry out activities in support of Prince Norodom Sihanouk in his second national crusade to restore national independence. The situation will become more and more tense, more unstable, more insecure, and more confused. The popular movement against the Vietnamese will increase. There will certainly be more grenade attacks against the Vietnamese. The puppets' riel will continue on its downfall. No matter how hard the western powers will try to pour their dollars into Cambodia, they will not be able to remedy this situation.

[Thayer] What will the Khmer Rouge do if the elections proceed?

[Samphan] This is a matter that lies squarely with UNTAC and the Western powers—are they going to continue their policy to eliminate the DK party, in violation of the Paris agreement, or are they going to reassess the situation and turn to implement the Paris agreement?

The question is: Have their efforts thus far brought peace to Cambodia? Will they reassess the situation and turn to implement the Paris agreement?

This is why I have said this matter lies squarely with UNTAC and the Western powers.

Hun Sen Meets Takeo Provincial Leaders

BK1804110193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 16 April while on its working visit in Takeo Province, the high-ranking delegation of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] led by His Excellency Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP and prime minister of the SOC, his wife, and high-ranking officials and personages of various SOC institutions met with leading officials of Takeo Province.

After Su Phirin, chairman of the Takeo Provincial Party Committee and People's Committee, reported to the delegation on the all-round development made in Takeo Province under the leadership of the CPP and SOC government in the past 14 years and some recent political developments, particularly after the historic launching of the election campaigns in the province, Hun Sen highly commended the achievements made by all leading officials of the province who strived tirelessly to fulfill their duties.

Prime Minister Hun Sen stressed that the sole goodwill of the CPP and SOC Government was to seek a genuine peace for the Cambodian people. Despite complex obstacles created by various political parties, particularly Khmer Rouge/Pol Pot faction and its allies, our SOC side sought to overcome all those obstacles, shared weal and woe with the people and made every effort to improve people's livelihood and to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime from returning to massacre the Cambodian people for the second time. He also noted that this was the final stage for our people to make a correct choice for the upcoming elections to be organized by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] so as to rebuild and defend the Cambodian motherland which has been victimized by war in the past over two decades.

The prime minister also exhorted all leading officials of Takeo Province to further implement the Paris peace agreement and election campaigns effectively and strive to promote people's living conditions and provide them with security by cooperating with the UNTAC team on mission in Takeo Province.

Discusses Issues 17 April

BK1804145193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Speech by Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia Council of Ministers, at the inauguration of a market in Takeo provincial town on 17 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Now I would like to talk a bit about some political issues, including the departure of Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, the election campaign, and other matters relative to the national reunification process. As the compatriots have been aware, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan has already left Phnom Penh. And the Khmer Rouge yesterday issued a statement on the so-called 17 April great victory over the Americans. However, there are some comments on the issue of the Khmer Rouge pullout. It is said that the Khmer Rouge are afraid of a demonstration to be staged on 17 April to again hit and slash Khieu Samphan's head. It was that day that the Khmer Rouge expelled people from cities. As such, the Khmer Rouge have to leave before 17 April because they are afraid of a demonstration to be carried out by the people to attack Khieu Samphan. Prophetically, his head will always be wounded. In the time of the samdech [prince; Sihanouk's popular appellation], he was once beaten and unclothed; and in November 1991, he was again wounded on the head. When Khieu Samphan was wounded on the head the year before last, it was Hun Sen who protected him. Now, Hun Sen has ordered the arrest of Khieu Samphan, asked the state prosecutor to arrest Khieu Samphan. Realizing that the situation was precarious, he then left. This is one of the comments.

It is also mentioned that the departure is to allow the Khmer Rouge to order their troops to launch the offensives. This is aimed at terrorizing the people. As for UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] officials, I would like to tell them that if they keep nurturing such a fear, it is really the end. Cambodians are not afraid, so why should UNTAC be? They have also panicked the people into fleeing. The Takeo people would have all fled if they listened to the UNTAC spokesman. The spokesman said that the Khmer Rouge were prepared to attack Takeo. But now Hun Sen is already in Takeo Province, so what? The spokesman announced that the Khmer Rouge were preparing to attack Takeo. He made such a statement yesterday or the day before yesterday. When in fear, they really feel terribly alarmed. When they were told that the Khmer Rouge would launch attacks, they did not believe it. But when they were told that the Khmer Rouge had not enough forces to launch attacks, they said the group would attack.

I would like to tell UNTAC that if it wants to be alarmed, it should keep to itself. Do not stir up panic. Now is the time for people to be dancing, playing traditional games to celebrate the New Year, so UNTAC should not provoke panic; do not provoke panic. The Khmer Rouge do not have enough forces. I do not mean UNTAC personnel here, who are providing protection for and staying with our people here. They know nothing, but the UNTAC personnel in Phnom Penh have been in a panic. The UNTAC in Phnom Penh has announced that the Khmer Rouge have attacked Takeo. How many troops do the Khmer Rouge have for attacking Takeo? I would like to make it clear that the Khmer Rouge have not just begun to attack today. They have ceaselessly carried out attacks since 1979, since the implementation of the accord. So we should not worry about whether the Khmer Rouge will attack or not. It is true that we should be vigilant, we should defend, because the genocidal regime still exists. However, it is not true that after Khieu Samphan's departure the Khmer Rouge will attack. In fact, when the Khmer Rouge were staying in Phnom Penh, in the interior, they had the ability to launch more attacks. This is because in the interior, they have an observation office that provides information for their forces to attack from the outside. The Khmer Rouge have their own forces and the danger of genocide still exists. However, do not forget that the State of Cambodia [SOC] forces as well as UNTAC are still in place to defend and ensure security for the people. But UNTAC cannot carry out the task of attacking the Khmer Rouge. So it is the SOC forces that should confront the Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer Rouge have not implemented the accord. They have not only rejected the implementation, but have also destroyed the agreement. The Khmer Rouge have now declared war with UNTAC, declared war with UNTAC. They have called for attacks against old and new enemies—their new enemy is the UNTAC itself. So this proves that the Khmer Rouge have begun to again commit genocide. However, they are not yet able to do it nationwide. So long as the Cambodian People's Party, Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, Hun Sen still exist, they can never recreate the regime of working, eating collectively. They can never kill the people at will as long as the Cambodian People's Party, the Tevoda [supernatural being] party, is still in existence. However, they can kill the people in remote areas. So they should be held responsible at least morally if not politically. I have to demand for the implementation of the convention on the prevention and punishment of genocidal acts. We can never tolerate the genocide.

As for Son Sann and Ranariddh, they always say that we should reunite. But now I would like to ask how can we reunite? They should not just repeat just that one word—reunification. How to reunite? A number of political parties also repeat the same word—reunification, reunification on television and radio. But I want to ask them how can we reunite. They should emphatically state from where to where we should start that reunification. In the end, some people say it is the SOC's refusal that has led to the Khmer Rouge rejection. I really don't understand this. The Paris Accord specifies as such; how can we do otherwise. Son Sann endlessly repeats reunification, reunification—with his unclear Cambodian accent—and if not, everything will get stuck. Now, I want to ask how can we reunite. We have already reunited, but they have refused. If they just want to come and kill us, how can we reunite with them? Although they are the Khmer Rouge's friends, those gentlemen dare never enter the Khmer Rouge-controlled areas. They should instead go there and get tough with the Khmer Rouge. They dare only behave toughly in Angkor Borei District, Takeo here. They dare not show their toughness with the Khmer Rouge; if they ever dare, the Khmer Rouge will attack and destroy them all.

An UNTAC official, who is in charge of the repatriation and whose name I should withhold, told me that this region should be placed with repatriated people and that we should remove all our internal borders. Your Excellency should act on that matter, he added. I answered that I am genuinely Hun Sen, so we should talk the matter out clearly. According to the Paris Accord, there is no internal border any more. It is no longer possible to say that this region is under the SOC's control and those regions are under the separate control of Son Sann, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], and the Khmer Rouge. It is true that there are four administrations [words indistinct]. But the people can cross from one side to the other and are free to travel. However you should, under no circumstances, not place the wrong and the right on the same footing. The Khmer Rouge are the ones creating the internal borders. If you want to know how can the Khmer Rouge create the internal borders, you should keep walking straight from a region controlled by the SOC toward a Khmer Rouge area.

Wherever you are arrested by the Khmer Rouge is the internal borders created by them. We should talk this matter out explicitly. It is not wise to just say this side of a border is controlled by the SOC and that side is under the Khmer Rouge control.

In the SOC, you can travel freely. There are 20 political parties that have stayed in the SOC where UNTAC, the human rights organization, and other organizations can carry out their activities unrestrictedly. However, UNTAC cannot enter the Khmer Rouge zone. And it is the areas where UNTAC cannot enter that are called the internal borders created by the Khmer Rouge. As such, you should not put the blame on me. For myself, what I should do is to prevent the Khmer Rouge from infiltrating, plundering, and massacring the people. I have never forbidden UNTAC or other political parties from traveling.

The Khmer Rouge have never permitted us to enter their areas, but we have allowed them to gain access to our regions. Then how can we reunite? Prince Ranariddh and Son Sann are now invited to try to install their party offices in the Khmer Rouge-controlled areas. Will the Khmer Rouge allow them? Of course, you are their friends, but you cannot enter their zone. The UNTAC and other countries friendly to the Khmer Rouge also cannot. The Khmer Rouge have killed many UNTAC personnel after eating and playing cards together. Now UNTAC becomes awakened, bright eyed. The Khmer Rouge are not like the contras in Nicaragua, UNITA in Angola, or mojahedin in Afghanistan. The Khmer Rouge are the genocidal gang. They know no one—they would shoot at everything even with Red Cross, UNTAC, or UN signs, and even declare war with UNTAC. Who can reunite with them? The 20 political parties, except for the Khmer Rouge, have agreed to take part in the elections. One keeps saying that we should reunite, we should reunite; but I do not know how can we reunite.

There is already a model, a scenario for the reunification. But it is asked from where do we Cambodians start? Where does the problem start? We should find that out. Who has created the problem? It is neither Hun Sen nor the CPP. The 18 March 1970 coup d'etat involved the other people. But the genocide is a matter of Pol Pot himself.

When I held talks with the samdech or various countries, I always told them to unambiguously distinguish those responsible for Cambodia's tragedy. When the war began in Cambodia, Hun Sen was only 18 years old. Therefore, I cannot be held responsible for that matter. After the war broke out in Cambodia, our compatriots became the hostages of the war. I have struggled against the genocidal Khmer Rouge. It is the people of the old generations who have created problems. Hun Sen has only taken part in solving the problems. So if you want to hold me responsible, I cannot accept it. I can accept only the responsibility to help settle the problems. I, one of the younger generation, can only help undo the knot tied by the older people. When I untied one knot, they formed two more.

What are the causes of the Cambodian problem? The problem is caused first of all by the 18 March 1970 coup d'etat and then the genocidal Pol Pot regime. Some people are now playing the so-called mathematical politics, using the formula: one minus one equals zero. What is that mathematical politics? This policy belongs to Ranariddh and Son Sann [words indistinct]. He [Ranariddh] also knew that the genocidal Pol Pot regime could not remain in place and that it would eventually collapse.

Who overthrew it when he remained idle in France? With his doctorate, his economic degree, he stayed in France doing nothing. So who overthrew the regime? It was Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, Hun Sen together with the Vietnamese troops [words indistinct]. He also knows that the Polpotist regime is cruel. But when we attacked the Polpotist gang, he denounced us. This is what they mean when they say one minus one equals zero. [passage omitted]

Now, grandma, if the Pol Pot regime was not toppled in 1979, would you be able to come here and get that small jar of medicinal ointment with the CPP emblem? Could you dress up like this? His family has survived thanks to our 7 January day. But now he has scolded both the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh. This is what they call one minus one equals zero, one minus one equals zero. The Vietnamese are further accused of carrying on the aggression. If the Vietnamese had not come, all would have died. The Vietnamese have all returned to Vietnam. But they continue to accuse us of having a Vietnamese head and a Cambodian body and being corrupt and incapable. They are all experts in shouting insults. This is the problem. [passage omitted]

The winning party together with all other parties should put the constitution through a referendum. And after the referendum, the constitution will be adopted as the state law. Regardless of your colors, red, blue, yellow, or white, you should be under the roof of the constitution. It is certain that the Khmer Rouge will not recognize the constitution. As the Khmer Rouge have already refused to accept the election results, they will never recognize the new constitution. [passage omitted]

The other day, I attacked Khieu Samphan at an SNC meeting for claiming that the people are furious with the puppet Phnom Penh regime, Puppet Hun Sen. I said: If you know that the people are furious with Hun Sen, you should participate in the elections and seize the victory. If the people hate Hun Sen, this means that if you participate, you will win. Why should you avoid the elections. When I said this, they become mum. It is very hard to deal with those people because they speak inconsistently. If you know that the people are angry with Hun Sen, meaning the people will not vote for Hun Sen, why don't you participate. You will certainly win. When he is asked to participate, he refuses.

Now I would like to talk about some contradictory issues. Khieu Samphan read a statement saying that the holding of the elections is illegal because of this and that. And in the end, the Phnom Penh regime will certainly win the elections. So the elections constitute an endorsement and recognition for the regime and will lead it to victory. He is talking about the victory. But at the end of his statement, he said the people are furious with the Phnom Penh regime. I cannot work out what he meant. On the top, he said Phnom Penh will win, but at the bottom he claimed that the people are furious with Phnom Penh, with Hun Sen. This is oddly contradictory. [passage indistinct].

This is what they call a coincident contradiction. His associates also spoke inconsistently [words indistinct].

For the issue of reunification, we should have our own priciple. We wish to ask: Why did you sign the Paris accord? And after signing, why don't you implement it? You are wrong. It is said that after their departure, the Khmer Rouge have declared a war. This has panicked UNTAC, but the Takeo and Kampot residents should not panic. Let UNTAC itself panic [words indistinct]. The people throughout the country should remain calm. They should neither stockpile rice nor collect their belongings. The Khmer Rouge are not a lion outside the cage. So long as the CPP, Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen still exist, the Khmer Rouge can never act at will.

As for the FUNCINPEC party, in a campaign in Kandal Province it claimed to be the only party that can reunite with the Khmer Rouge. I said such a propaganda is a waste of money. It is true that only FUNCINPEC can reunite with the Khmer Rouge because the Khmer Rouge completely control FUNCINPEC. This was stated by a FUNCINPEC general who has joined the CPP. Many more generals will inform the compatriots in succession. What has the FUNCINPEC jointly done with the Khmer Rouge and what is the future of the FUNCINPEC with the Khmer Rouge? I am not the person who will reveal these matters.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to thank officers of top, middle, and low levels as well as the noncommissioned officers of the FUNCINPEC for their correct political decision to cut loose from the party and rally with the CPP. This is not a surrender but a meeting current. The CPP needs you; you need the CPP. We are all equal and brothers. We should join hands to rebuild the country. The fact that you have joined the CPP has destroyed the joint criminal scheme of the FUNCINPEC and Khmer Rouge to instigate internal terrorism. They have indoctrinated and motivated some people to kill the people and set ablaze their houses, destroy the riel currency, and sabotage the economy.

Everything is now disclosed. The big prince, you should come out. There is no further need to hide anything, because your right-hand man and many others have talked about the matter. UNTAC has now called for help because a number of officers and their families in the FUNCINPEC-controlled areas are facing danger. Political decisionmaking is a political right of all citizens. So you cannot threaten, arrest, and kill the families of those people. The FUNCINPEC is called on not to use brutal force. [passage indistinct]. A lieutenant general has clearly stated that Prince Ranariddh should be held responsible for [words indistinct] because everything done by the people at the bottom is ordered by those on the top line. It Prince Ranariddh wants to argue he can do it with his own lieutenant general. Terrorist acts and others as well as the FUNCINPEC's candidates for the elections, who have broken away from the party, will be shown on television in a few days for the compatriots here. You should wait and see and check out whether I lie. The FUNCINPEC issue will be disclosed. We do not know FUNCINPEC more than it knows itself. [passage indistinct].

Taking this opportunity, I would like to appeal to the Khmer Rouge officers and rank and file to cut loose from them and return to the national community. Your leaders will transform themselves into rebels, and their genocidal guilt can never be tolerated. As you are genocidal criminals, Thailand will no longer allow you to take refuge there. Thailand should arrest Khmer Rouge leaders and turn them over to Cambodia for trial. The UN convention states that they have no right to political asylum.

On the election issue, they say that the Khmer Rouge departure is aimed at sabotaging the polls. However, the Khmer Rouge have strived for months to destroy the elections. They have destroyed the voter-registration process and the people's voter-registration cards. They are continuing the destruction. Nevertheless, we should not be frightened in this situation. Our compatriots should go and vote because this is our duty toward our nation. This is a lifetime opportunity because the international community has spent over $2 billion for the successful holding of the elections in Cambodia. So whatever the threat is, you should strive to fulfill your duty as a citizen to choose a political regime via the polls. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

UNTAC Urged To Protect Personnel in Cambodia

BK1704141593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Indonesia has urged the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to pay greater attention to the protection of its multinational personnel who are carrying out a UN operation to restore peace in Cambodia. Indonesia has asked UNTAC to protect not only the forthcoming general elections, particularly polling at voting centers but also multinational contingents making up the UN peacekeeping force. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas disclosed this to newsmen after calling on Vice President Try Sutrisno at Merdeka Selatan Palace this morning.

Minister Ali Alatas said greater attention should be paid to the protection of the multinational battalions in view of the worsening situation in Cambodia. Despite the worrisome situation, every element involved in the UN operation in Cambodia should, however, not take unilateral action. Indonesia does not want to act unilaterally because it is committed to a common UN action and will not withdraw its troops from Cambodia without the consent of the United Nations.

Air Force Chief Views Combat Aircraft Acquisition

BK1504110293 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 15 Apr 93 p 2

[By Jakarta Correspondent Paul Jacob]

[Text] Jakarta—Indonesia's new Air Force chief has projected a steady build-up of combat aircraft squadrons over the next 25 years and was confident the Air Force could regain, and even surpass, the dominant position it enjoyed in the region in the 1960's.

Vice Marshall Rilo Pambudi told the KOMPAS daily this week that the Air Force would need a minimum of three interceptor fighter squadrons by the turn of the century and two additional squadrons by the year 2018. It also needed more aircraft for an air-to-ground attack role and had to increase its stable of transport planes and helicopters.

Vice Marshall Rilo said the overall number of combat and transport aircraft was still below the minimum number required by the Air Force. He said, for instance, that it needed a minimum of five transport squadrons, each with 16 aircraft. Some squadrons now had less than that.

It was not just large C-130 Hercules transports which were needed, but also light and medium-sized planes, including those for flying VIPs around.

Vice Marshall Rilo, who spoke to KOMPAS on Monday at a ceremony honouring his predecessor Air Marshall Sibun, said that he was confident the Air Force could develop to the point where it regained the superiority it once enjoyed in the region.

Indonesia reportedly possessed the largest Air Force in the area in the 1960's with its 19 squadrons of mainly Russian-made MiG fighters and Ilyushin bombers.

"I am optimistic of regaining the superiority as in the 1960's and possibly even surpassing it in the future," the Air Force chief said.

According to the latest edition of The Military Balance published by the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies, Indonesia now has five combat aircraft squadrons—about 80 aircraft in all.

These comprise 28 A-4 Skyhawks, 12 OV-10 Broncos and 15 Hawk aircraft—all of which are considered air-to-ground attack aircraft, and 11 F-16's and 14 F-5 Tiger II's which usually function as fighters.

Vice Marshall Rilo indicated that the high-tech F-16's could be the main interceptor fighter aircraft used by the Air Force when he said that Indonesia needed a second F-16 squadron plus an additional five aircraft to bring the current F-16 squadron up to the full strength of 16.

The American-built aircraft have been in operation with the Air Force here since late 1989.

Indonesia is also finalising a U.S. $765 million deal with British Aerospace for 24 single and twin-seat Hawk aircraft.

Newspaper reports last week quoted Research and Technology Minister B.J. Habibie as saying the Air Force could eventually acquire as many as 96 Hawks, or six squadrons. Mr. Habibie's comments were tempered a few days later by Armed Forces chief General Edi Sudrajat, who said the purchase was merely a proposal. Gen. Sudrajat, who is also Defence and Security Minister, said funding was a consideration and added that the welfare of Indonesians was more important now than the requirements of the military. He also said that neighbouring countries need not be worried about Indonesian military purchases.

Philippines

AFP Watching Mindanao's Muslim Fundamentalists

HK1404071093 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Part 1 of a two-part program on the situation in Mindanao; produced by ABC-DWET News]

[Text] Progress in Mindanao following the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao elections now depends on the twin forces of the national government in Manila and the growing fundamentalist movements in the region itself. Both have concerns about the economic plight of the region, but lately the focus is on peace and order following the reported April surprise terrorist plot aimed at embroiling Mindanao in a new war. Arlene de la Cruz has part one of the special report on the southern situation:

[Begin recording] [De La Cruz] Their movements have been monitored. The military and the police were alerted because of their sudden rise.

[General Lisandro Abadia, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, AFP] We are watching them very closely.

[De La Cruz] Who are and what are the so-called Muslim fundamentalists or Muslim extremists? They are often referred to as the Martial Law Moro babies. They are brought up within the foundation of the Islamic culture and faith. They grew up not knowing about being a Filipino. They simply call themselves Moros—their faith based on the 'true' interpretation of the Koran.

[Muslim extremist leader Abu Sayyaf] This is what is Islam. This is the environment of the Martial Law Moro babies.

[De La Cruz] After being educated in foreign countries such as Libya and Pakistan, some of them went back to Mindanao to preach the very teachings of Allah. Others returned home to become Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] freedom fighters.

Leading the fundamentalists in Basilan is Abu Sayyaf. Like the MNLF freedom fighters, his task is to fight for the freedom of the Moro people and to bring back the purist fundamentals of the Islamic faith in practice.

[Sayap] We have to establish Islamic states. That is the teaching of the Koran.

[De La Cruz] Sayyaf and the MNLF's freedom fighters—are they one and the same? [end recording]

Formal Peace Talks With MNLF To Start in June

HK1604135093 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Second and final part of a two-part program on the situation in Mindanao; produced by ABC-DWET News—passages within slantlines in Tagalog]

[Text] Formal negotiations will be held in June at a still undisclosed venue between representatives of the government and emissaries of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF].

This fresh development from the long slowed-down peace talks between the government and the Muslim separatist group was announced tonight through a joint communique issued by the two panels in Jakarta. The announcement highlighted the conclusion of the three-day exploratorty meeting hosted by Indonesia's President Suharto and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

The Philippine delegation was headed by Batangas Congressman Eduardo Ermita while the MNLF was led by its chairman, Nur Misuari.

The communique added that the June negotiations will be based on an agenda focusing on the modalities for the full implementation of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement in letter and spirit. The agreement provided for the establishment of an autonomous region in Mindanao within the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines.

On the heels of the Jakarta meet, Hong Kong is hinted as the next possible venue of the peace talks, this time with the representatives of the communist National Democratic Front.

President Ramos, in a talk with newsmen today, remains noncommittal about the Crown Colony's prospects as the next new site of the talks. His nondenial of the Hong Kong report, however, raised hopes that the peace process is finally moving as is broadly suggested by that meeting in Jakarta. The Jakarta talks may have been exploratory in nature, but there is optimism that a deeper understanding will be reached on the respective positions of the government and Muslim secessionists in Mindanao.

Just how much do we know about the Muslim front? We have the conclusion of our two-part special on the southern situation from Arlene de la Cruz:

[Begin recording] [De la Cruz] The Moro National Liberation Front is in a dilemma on whether to support or reject the growth of Muslim fundamentalists in Mindanao. A young preacher by the name of Abu Sayyaf, who heads the fundamentalist movement, concentrates on the concepts of an Islamic state, both in the spiritual and practical existence of every Muslim in Mindanao. He advocates that all non-Islamic beliefs such as Christianity, do not have any place in a predominantly Muslim areas such as Mindanao. The MNLF, on the other hand, has settled for what they refer to as harmonious existence with Christians.

[Unidentified MNLF official] /It seems he is waging a religious war./

[De la Cruz] Sayyaf stays in an MNLF-controlled area in Basilan, but the MNLF says he is not from the MNLF. But the MNLF and Sayyaf both maintain that they have a responsibility to protect and fight for the freedom of the Bangsa Moro people.

[MNLF official] The Muslim group is not allowed to undertake aggression. /Agression is not allowed, okay?/ In other words, violence, terrorism—/these are not allowed among Muslims./ However, a Muslim group, a Muslim community is commanded to fight back.

[De la Cruz] Sayyaf, a product of the martial law, openly challenges the military to stop what he referred to as abuses of the Muslim people.

[MNLF official] /He is the man that soldiers should find./

[De la Cruz] Any religious leader like Sayyaf is respected by all MNLF leaders and supporters. [end recording]

AFP Reports Talks' Progress

BK1604121293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Jakarta, April 16 (AFP)—Delegations of the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) ended a three-day meeting in Cipanas near here Friday saying they have agreed to hold formal peace negotiations in June.

"The parties agreed to hold formal peace negotiations on or before June 30, 1993, based on an agenda focusing on the modalities for the full implementation of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement in letter and spirit," a joint press statement issued at the end of the exploratory peace talks said.

The Tripoli agreement laid down the main framework for a peaceful solution to the Moro problem, providing for the establishment of an autonomous region in the southern Philippines within the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines.

The talks, hosted by Indonesia's President Suharto and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and kept under tight wraps until they ended Friday, were held at the presidential palace at the mountain resort of Cipanas near here.

Congressman Eduardo R. Ermita led the Manila delegation to the exploratory talks, the second after Tripoli in October, while the MNLF team was led by its chairman, Nur Misuari.

Misuari said at a press conference here after the talks that the venue for the formal negotiations had not been decided.

The statement said that a mutually acceptable agenda for the formal negotiations had been formulated during the talks but both Misuari and Ermita declined to elaborate.

"All parties expressed satisfaction over the sucessful conclusion of the exploratory, informal and official talks and said that peace was now nearer on the horizon," the joint statement also said.

It also said that the parties agreed to take steps to promote a climate of confidence most conducive to the advancement of the peace process.

Also at the press conference Ermita said that he found the results of the talks "very encouraging, very sucessful," and that now "the distance between us is getting closer and closer."

Misuari said "we succeded with some kind of success... We hope that after the Cipanas peace talks, the way would be paved for the final resolution of this problem."

The MNLF leader said he based his optimism on suggestions "Manila has come to realize that unless there is peace in Mindanao ... the present situation, particularly the economic one, is going to exacerbate and is going to aggravate all the more."

The MNLF are demanding a separate Islamic state in southern Mindanao, home to the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines large Moslem minority. More than 50,000 people have been killed since the Moslem rebellion broke out in the early 1970s.

Ermita said the MNLF still had the potential to cause trouble but the threat had now "subsided very much."

Misuari said the important thing was that both forces "should stay in their camps and avoid intruding into each other's territory."

NDF Urges Manila To Formalize Talks Offer

HK1704063493 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] wants the Ramos government to formalize its offer to resume exploratory talks abroad. NDF negotiator Luis Jalandoni said that the government must follow the proper procedures for holding exploratory talks, so that his group would be able to respond and thus achieve good results.

The NDF is open to the proposal for holding the second part of the exploratory talks in Hong Kong, but the communist party is more agreeable to holding the talks in Switzerland and Japan, two countries known for hosting peace talks. President Ramos earlier announced his approval of the NDF's request to hold the second round of exploratory talks in another country on the condition that the formal talks be held in the Philippines.

MNLF Chairman Willing To Attend June Peace Talks

HK1904023093 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Nur Misuari, Moro National Liberation Front chairman, is willing to attend the second part of peace negotiations with the government in the Philippines this coming June. This has reportedly been confirmed by Congressman Eduardo Ermita, one of the members of the panel that went to Indonesia to meet with Misuari. Ermita said the venue for the talks will be made known after the 21st meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference in Pakistan 24-26 April. [passage omitted]

Ramos: Exploratory Talks With MNLF 'Big Success'

HK1904023893 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] The meeting between the Moro National Liberation Front and government representatives in Indonesia has been a big success.

This was confirmed by President Fidel V. Ramos in his speech at the closing ceremonies of the Regional Summit on Peace and Order in Maguindanao. Ramos thanked Indonesia for hosting the exploratory talks believed to push for the talks that will aim to achieve true peace. The chief executive said the peace and order situation in the area has improved, especially in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Ramos urged the people to be more vigilant against crime and violence.

Government, NDF Disagree on Peace Talks Venue

HK1904061793 Quezon City MALAYA in English 19 Apr 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Ellen Tordesillas and Chit Estella]

[Text] The government will not agree to hold the second round of talks with communist rebels in Switzerland, Press Secretary Rodolfo Reyes said yesterday.

And a proposal to hold the talks in Japan is also likely to be rejected, he said.

Reyes was reacting to a proposal of the Netherlands-based Luis Jalandoni, National Democratic Front [NDF] vice chairman, to hold talks in Geneva, Switzerland or Tokyo, Japan.

Reyes said: "We will stick to the statement of the President that it has to be a neighboring country. Switzerland is not a neighboring country."

He added: "Our negotiators don't have to go to Europe. It's very expensive there."

Reyes said Japan, although a neighbor, is also an expensive country.

He said the government prefers to hold talks with anti-government forces in a neighboring country to lessen expenses to taxpayers.

Jalandoni, in an interview, said it suggested Switzerland or Japan to ensure the "dignity and strength" of the peace process by holding the talks in a country where the government or its political forces officially support this effort.

He said certain political parties in Japan have expressed support for the holding of peace talks there and are even willing to shoulder part of the expenses of both sides within a certain limit. This would mean the number of delegates, length of stay, the site and the meals, he said.

"Sa tingin namin, makakayanan naman ng gobyerno [We see that the government can do it] for such an important thing," Jalandoni said as he urged the government not to set aside Tokyo as an option.

On a reported proposal of the government for its representatives to meet with NDF leaders in Hong Kong, Jalandoni said the NDF would not consider it appropriate to meet in some "hotel conference room in Hong Kong" and without the support of an important political force or party there.

President Ramos has adopted a "shifting venues" concept under which exploratory talks can be held in and out of the country but formal talks will be held in the Philippines.

Reyes said the NDF will soon receive formal notification from the National Unification Commission [NUC] on the proposal. Jalandoni has chided the government for relaying the proposal to the NDF "through press releases issued by the press secretary."

In the interview, Jalandoni also said the NDF prefers to deal with government representatives who took part in the first round of exploratory talks in The Hague last year.

But he stressed that movement recognizes and accepts the right of the Philippine government to designate whomever it wishes to represent it.

Jalandoni and his organization would appreciate a "continuity in the talks" through the designation of Rep. Jose Yap (LDP Tarlac) [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] as the President's representative.

Reports from Malacanang indicated that Haydee Yorac, chairperson of the National Unification Commission, is posed to take over the task of emissary previously held by Yap.

Recalling the talks in The Hague where Yap served as emissary, Jalandoni said, "Our experience with him has been quite positive and fruitful."

He said the talks at that time ended with a joint declaration which was advantageous to both the government and the NDF.

A government source said informal and unofficial talks are already going on abroad between representatives of both sides.

The source said the unofficial meeting, which is not in Hong Kong, is aimed at preparing for the exploratory talks and determining the NDF's reaction to the concept of "shifting venues."

Jalandoni would not confirm the supposed unofficial meeting but strongly hinted that encounters such as this have been going on. While the concept of "shifting venues" has been broached in these informal talks, recent pronouncements coming from Malacanang were not covered by these meetings. The government source said the NUC expects a result from the unofficial meeting around next week.

Jalandoni indicated the NDF would consider the shifting venues proposal. "Any movement from the stalemate position is something positive," he said.

But he indicated that shifting venues could mean having the talks in different places outside the Philippines. He recalled that the El Salvador peace talks were held in six places that were facilitated by their respective governments. These were in Costa Rica, Mexico, Venezuela, Spain, Switzerland and even the United States.

Jalandoni cautioned the government against extracting a commitment from the NDF to hold the formal talks in the Philippines while preparations are being made for the second exploratory meeting.

"The NDF prefers that exploratory talks be held in such a way that no strings are to be attached.

Editorial Views MNLF Talks, Hopes for Progress

HK1904054093 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Apr 93 p 10

[Editorial—"Government-MNLF Talks in Indonesia Demonstrate Administration's Sincerity"]

[Text] The second exploratory talks between the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) concluded last April 16 [as published] in Cipanas Presidential Palace south of Jakarta, Indonesia. President Suharto hosted the talks, which were presided over by Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Deputy Secretary General Ibrahim Bakr. Heads of the delegations were Representative Eduardo R. Ermita for the Philippine Government and Nur Misuari for the MNLF.

The first exploratory talks were held in Tripoli, Libya in October of 1992. This second round of talks ended with an agreement to hold formal peace negotiations on the autonomy of Muslims in the Philippines on or before June 30, 1993. The agreement stipulates quite clearly that these talks on autonomy will be held "within the realm of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines according to the 1976 Tripoli Agreement."

In these negotiations, the one objective is peace and the cessation of hostilities and the consequent assurance to each other of mutual security. To attain this objective, the present Administration has demonstrated its sincerity and willingness to compromise for the sake of a lasting peace.

One hopes that this second round has made some progress in narrowing down specific issues and in arriving at an agreement on the terms of reference and the guidelines according to which the negotiations will be conducted, autonomy for Filipino Muslims within the frame of reference of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic and according to the 1976 Tripoli Agreement.

Perhaps one happy thought in this rather difficult and tedious process is that as long as both sides are talking to each other, there is at least a truce, no matter how temporary, and that there is peace and the absence of conflict.

The second step in a journey of a thousand miles has just been taken.

Ramos To Sign 8 Agreements During PRC Visit

HK1604121593 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 16 Apr 93

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] Trade Secretary Rizalino Navarro today said the Philipines and China will sign eight agreements during the China state visit of President Fidel V. Ramos this month.

Among these agreements is the trade protocol between the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its counterpart groups in China.

The government will look into an exchange of technology on mini-hydropower generation and the manufacture of bricks and steel. The government will also explore the export of dried food like mangoes and of semiconductors.

Private sector representatives will observe the operation of the stock exchanges and industrial estates in China.

Foreign Reserves Reach 'Highest Level Ever'

HK1704063893 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 16 Apr 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News" program]

[Text] The country's international reserves zoomed to its highest level ever. The Central Bank now has $6.6 billion worth of reserves, over $5.6 billion of which is in the form of foreign investment. This high level of reserves put the country in a good position to service its foreign debt payment and meet forex [foreign exchange] needs of exporters.

Thailand

Prasong Opposes SNC Meeting Outside Cambodia

BK1604135593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, foreign minister, spoke with reporters today about the convening of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC]. He said if the SNC is to meet it should meet in Cambodia, not outside that country or in Thailand, because the Cambodian Government is not an exile cabinet which has to hold its meetings outside.

The foreign minister said he will visit Cambodia from 7-9 May to meet with leaders of every Cambodian faction and UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia officials. He will also observe the situation there and try to persuade the factions to reconcile their differences in order to carry out political activities to create peace. He appeals to every Cambodian faction to have sympathy for the Cambodian people who have suffered during 15-year dispute.

House Team To Observe Cambodian Elections

BK1604135793 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] A six-man team from the House of Representatives will observe the election in Cambodia as requested by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia. Sutham Saengprathum, spokesman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the six members of Parliament have been chosen from the MP's who have followed the situation in Cambodia, including those who have previously made official trips to that country. The team will leave Thailand on 22 April.

Troops on Cambodian Border Placed on Alert

BK1704030393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Apr 93 pp A1-A2

[Excerpt] Thai troops on the eastern border with Cambodia have been reinforced and put on alert in anticipation of civil war senior Thai military officials said yesterday.

"The pull-out of the Khmer Rouge from Phnom Penh will likely be followed by violence," warned First Army Region Commander Lt Gen Chettha Thanacharo. "We must be prepared for unexpected situations and military units responsible for [eastern frontier] security have been put on alert." The Khmer Rouge on Tuesday withdrew its officials from Phnom Penh the capital of Cambodia, raising fears that it was severing its links with the Cambodian peace process.

The pull-out came amid increasing political violence and ceasefire violations ahead of the general election scheduled for next month.

Chettha said the Thai military did not want to see a new influx of refugees.

The United Nations is completing the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Cambodian refugees from Thai soil in what is described as the only successful part so far of the UN-sponsored peace process.

"We don't want a new flood of refugees, nor do we want artillery shells to fall on our territory again," he said.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Wisit Atkhumwong said the Thai military was closely monitoring developments in Cambodia and "we are finding it hard to assess the situation".

"There may be new fighting," he said. "Our forces are being employed to ensure peace and order along our border. If there is renewed fighting, we want to see it contained inside Cambodia."

He would not reveal to what extent troops have been reinforced at the border since tension in Cambodia had increased.

Officials of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) have blamed the Khmer Rouge for killing six members of the peacekeeping force since March 28.

The Maoist group said it will boycott the national elections in Cambodia scheduled for May 23-27 and warned of deteriorating conditions.

The faction charged that UNTAC has done nothing to stop what they call Vietnam's plan to colonize Cambodia.

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan yesterday rejected the allegation that his men were involved in the killing of UN personnel in Cambodia, according to a local news report.

"The withdrawal of the Khmer Rouge from Phnom Penh was made due to security reasons, and the election which is to be held between May 23 and 27 is a means to destroy the Khmer Rouge," Khieu Samphan said.

He said the withdrawal of the Khmer Rouge was temporary and did not say what he would do next, Channel 7 television reported. It did not say from where Khieu Samphan was speaking.

Wisit, echoing Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri's recent statements, said he thinks the Khmer Rouge has not yet withdrawn from the peace accord signed with their rivals in 1991.

Army Commander in Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit, meanwhile, said yesterday the Thai military was ready to help persuade the Khmer Rouge to cooperate in the peace process.

"If the government wants us to talk with the Khmer Rouge, we will try. But I can't guarantee success," he said. [passage omitted]

PRC Foreign Minister To Discuss Cambodia

BK1704032393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Apr 93 p A3

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrives in Bangkok tomorrow for a four-day visit to focus on bilateral cooperation as well as Cambodia.

He is expected to hold talks with his Thai counterpart Prasong Sunsiri on the simmering situation in Cambodia where the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge are reviving fears of a new civil war.

Both ministers met in China in March during Prasong's visit there.

Prasong said he would inform the Chinese minister on Asean's stand toward the current situation in Cambodia.

Asean's senior officials are scheduled to discuss next month Asean's position on Cambodia and the UN role after the upcoming general election in the wartorn country.

Cooperation on trade and investment would also feature in the talks between Prasong and the Chinese guest.

Prasong said he would discuss with his counterpart the proposed transport network linking Thailand, northern Laos, Shan state of Burma and Yunnan in south China. The four countries plan a meeting on the project next month.

Thailand's proposal for the transportation network envisions an economic growth quadrangle.

Qian will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and will be granted an audience with His Majesty the King on Monday. On Tuesday, he will fly to Chiang Mai and visit Beijing's consul-general there. Qian will return to Bangkok on Wednesday to attend the 49th annual meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap).

Qian will have talks with North Korean officials attending the Escap meeting on Pyongyang's withdrawal from the United Nation's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. He will return to Beijing on Thursday.

During Prasong's visit to Beijing Chinese leaders expressed support for the UN-sponsored general elections in Cambodia and were receptive to proposals for the joint economic development of the growth quadrangle, a longstanding pet project of Thailand's.

Deputy Premier: U.S. 'Pleased' With IPR Efforts

BK1604140193 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] The government's copyright protection efforts have begun to gain greater satisfaction from the United States. After a meeting with U.S. Ambassador David Lambertson, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak reported that the United States has expressed satisfaction with the cabinet decision to reform laws to protect copyrights in Thailand. The United States is also pleased with the earnest suppression of video and tape copyright violations, as well as with Thailand's plan to recognize the rights of the signatories to the Berne Convention.

The deputy prime minister said a tripartite committee will be formed comprising the U.S. ambassador, copyright holders, and government representatives as a further step to protect copyrights.

[Begin Suphachai recording] The ambassador said that the efforts and policy we have carried out have been rather impressive. In particular, today we raided another company that engaged in counterfeiting tapes. The U.S. Embassy is very pleased with the news and feels that the efforts demonstrate the seriousness of our measures to tackle video counterfeiting. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador has said that the Thai Government's action will be an important factor which will encourage the United States to review its trade retaliation plans or use Article 301 against Thailand.

Copyright Raid Nets 'Sophisticated' Equipment

BK1704031893 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Apr 93 p A4

[Text] Police seized Bt [baht] 300 million worth of recording equipment and arrested a suspect in Bangkok yesterday in what was said to be the most successful raid to date since the authorities launched a crackdown recently on copyright violators.

Hong Sae Ung, 52, was held with sophisticated audio equipment at her shop house on Yaowarat Road in Samphanthawong district by a team of police and Commerce Ministry officials.

The authorities also found master tapes featuring foreign singers in the shophouse.

Police charged Hong with copyright violation and illegally operating a factory.

The raid followed a complaint and tip-off from Kanit Luangsiriroj, who represents US and European plaintiffs accusing Thai merchants of intellectual property right violations.

It came as the Thai authorities are intensifying their campaign against local pirated products like musical and video tapes as well as computer software.

The crusade comes as the United States is preparing to announce if it is satisfied with the Thai campaign or if Bangkok should be subjected to trade retaliation.

Paper Protests U.S. Pressure on IPR Issue

BK1804105393 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 18 Apr 93 p 5

[Editorial: "When the Lion Wants to Eat the Rat"]

[Text] The United States threatened to impose trade retaliation against Thailand for failure to suppress copyright violations which resulted in losses suffered by U.S. manufacturers. It would double the import duties charged on Thai products sold to the United States. Thai exporters will be affected by this measure because American importers would stop buying from Thailand but will buy from other countries with lower duties to pay.

Faced with the U.S. ultimatum, Thai governments in the past tried to solve the problem through suppression of copyright violations. But existing laws in Thailand could not effectively deal with piracy of U.S. manufactured goods. New laws are needed. Yet, enactment of laws is a lengthy process requiring a careful screening by the parliament which has the duty of protecting the interests of the Thai people, Thai businessmen, and investors.

And because of frequent changes of government in Thailand, enactment of the copyright law has been interrupted and delayed for many years. Nevertheless, Thailand has taken action to prevent and suppress piracy of U.S. copyrighted products. Frequent raids by police on shops selling pirated tapes and cassettes are an example of efforts made by Thailand to please the United States. Yet, the United States does not seem to be moved by them.

The United States has issued a warning of possible withdrawal of tax privileges Thailand has been enjoying under the Generalised System of Preferences. We do not know what else the Thai Government would have to do in order to satisfy the United States. Thailand has been behaving like an underdog of the superpower United States. The United States is like a lion, and Thailand just a rat whose fate depends on what the United States says.

Piracy of U.S. products committed by several countries has existed for a long time already. In the past, the United States did not care much about it because the United States was very rich and remained the most powerful economic power in the world. Now the situation has changed, and the United States has become poor because it could no longer compete with other countries in terms of production. The problem has thus become a global issue.

Of course, Thailand realized the fact that the lion is now hungry. The lion is much bigger than the rat, and it can devour the rat anytime. But this would not make the United States recover from its economic woes. In fact, Thailand should not behave like a docile rat. Instead, it should act like a bee with a poisonous sting.

The time has come for the Thai people to unite and protect their national honor. We should not lose our heart and subject ourselves to intimidation. Let us think about the advice once given by a former foreign minister, Colonel Thanat Khoman. He said Thailand should review all unfair treaties it has with the United States, the treaties concluded under U.S. pressure.

Chuan Signs Order Against Copyright Violations

BK1804151693 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai on 16 April signed an order of the Prime Minister's Office on the enforcement of legislations for the prevention and suppression of copyright violations. The order, which took effect yesterday, contains five major points which serve as guidelines for the control of copyright violations. Any previous order found to be in conflict with the present one will be considered invalid.

Number 4 of this order says that there will be a control in the production and distribution of music and video tapes. There is a list of control products. Several government agencies will be in charge of the prevention and suppression of copyright violations. They are: the Interior Ministry, the Commerce Ministry, the deputy prime ministers with the authority from the prime minister, and the Intellectual Property Department, which will serve as the coordination center between the government and the private sector.

This order comes as a result of the Commerce Ministry's decision that copyright violations are seriously damaging the image of the country and the Thai Government. While only a small number of people are benefiting from the practice, their action has negatively affected the country's export sector, especially exports to the United States. The United States has protested to the Thai Government asking it to adopt a clear-cut position in protecting copyright. Before this order was announced, the cabinet last week approved in principle a draft legislation on conditions for the protection of international copyright. The bill is now with the Juridical Council for scrutiny. The annex to this legislation indicates a recognition of the copyright of 94 member countries of the Berne Convention on Protection of Literature and Art Work.

Ministry Seeks Ban on Trade in Fake Products

BK1904020393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Apr 93 pp B1, B2

[Text] The Commerce Ministry will ask the government to impose a ban on imports and exports of pirated products to show Washington that the country is committed to intellectual property rights protection.

The ministry will ask the Cabinet to approve the proposal tomorrow, an official, who asked not to be identified, said.

The sub-commitee on finance and trade of the US Congress will announce on April 19 the countries deemed for copyrights violation. The Thai Commercial Counsellor in Washington had earlier reported that the chance is high of Thailand being on the list.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai on Friday gave approval to broaden the legal scope of six laws to empower and facilitate the authorities concerned in arresting violators, confiscating and destroying pirated products.

One of the six laws is the Royal Directive on Export and Import of Merchandise, 1979, which now controls 43 imported items and 41 exports.

The other five are: the Royal Directive on Consumer Protection 1979; Royal Directive on Control of Audio and Video Tapes; 1987, Royal Directive on Price Fixing and Import of Merchandise 1979; The Revolutionary Government Decree Vol 285, and Royal Directive on Criminal Cases Section 137.

The source said some of suspected products are believed to be imported from Singapore.

Those who violate the law will be subject to 10-year imprisonment and fined at five times the products' value.

The official added that, if approved, the Customs Department can impound the suspected products.

In addition, the law will be also in line with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade rules.

The US Trade Representative is scheduled to announce by the end of this month whether to retaliate out of its concern over an inadequate protection on the US intellectual property. Thailand has been ranked a 'priority foreign country' on the US watchlist for the past two years.

Suchit Aphiradi, head of the special task force of the Commerce Ministry, added that he will also propose to the Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon to set up a committee to oversee copyright violators who evaded the tax. Chaired by Permanent Secretary to Commerce Phachara Itsarasena, the committee will also comprise officials from the Revenue Department, the Excise Department, Customs Department and the director-general of the Intellectual Property Department.

Officials said the US Ambassador told the Thai officials during the last week's meeting with the Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon that he has encouraged by the Chuan administration to improve intellectual property protection.

The Thai officials are now filing petitions against some fake tape distributors including Macalpine and Peacock, and the Sunny video shop.

Three Agencies To Deal With Copyright Violations

BK1904035593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has signed a regulation of the Prime Minister's Office authorizing the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Interior, and the Office of the Prime Minister to form a network of operation against copyright violations. In cracking down on copyright violators, the three agencies are empowered to enforce the 1992 Copyright Act, which is under the control of the Ministry of Commerce; the 1980 Consumer Protection Act, which is under the control of the Prime Minister's Office; and the 1987 Tapes and Visual Products Control Act, which is under the control of the Ministry of Interior.

U.S. Ambassador to Thailand David Lambertson was recently invited to meet Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon for a briefing on progress made by Thailand on the solving of copyright violation problem. The U.S. ambassador also discussed the issue with Deputy Prime Ministers Suphachai Phanitchaphak and Amnuai Wirawan. He expressed his satisfaction over the seriousness by Thailand to tackle the problem.

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai said Thailand would form a tripartite committee to handle the issue. The U.S. side proposed that representatives from the U.S. Embassy and the Thai Government as well as owners of the copyrights be included in the tripartite committee.

IPR Issue May Cause 'Readjustment' in U.S. Ties

BK1904103793 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 19 Apr 93 p 8

[Editorial: "U.S. Victory Could Put Trade in a Slump"]

[Text] The United States, an economic power in decline, has won a big victory in getting Thailand to protect U.S. intellectual property rights [IPR], especially copyrights of video and music tapes, drug patents, and other items. The United States threatened to withdraw special trade privileges Thailand has enjoyed under the Generalised System of Preferences [GSP]. To safeguard American interests in a time of economic difficulties, the U.S. Congress and administrative apparatus has been checking to see whether the Thai Government is seriously solving the problem of infringement of U.S. intellectual property rights.

As a result, the present Thai Government, especially the commerce minister, has been making an all-out effort to please the United States. Officials were sent to raid Bangkok shops selling pirated music and video tapes as well as studios producing pirated products. The Thai Government confirmed to the United States, which accused Thailand of having done nothing seriously over the past six years to solve the problem, that efforts to crack down on copyright violations would be pursued on a continuous and permanent basis, and not just off-and-on measures.

It seems that the present government is intent upon suppressing intellectual property right violations in order to convince the United States not to withdraw special privileges given to Thailand under the GSP. In the wake of reports that U.S. importers of Thai products have already been looking for new sources of supplies for fear that Thailand might be subjected to U.S. trade retaliation, the Thai Government has amended several acts in favor of the United States, including power vested in authorities to take immediate action against violators of U.S. copyrights without any delays caused by justice procedures.

With an all-out effort mounted by the Thai Government to please the United States, it would be a shame for Thailand if the U.S. Government, Congress, and copyright owners remain unhappy with the results. What we see now is a picture of an unequal partnership—the former protector trying to make its protege bow to its demands. Anyway, the ongoing situation could lead to a readjustment of bilateral relations which might have a new look from now on.

What can be seen immediately is a slump in the trade of products involving intellectual property, Western entertainment, and culture. If protection of U.S. intellectual property rights means we have to pay an excessive price for products which are intellectual property, entertainment, and culture, then the government will have to take responsibility for controlling prices. Meanwhile, the United States should see to it that the prices of its intellectual property are reasonable. An overprice would only discourage consumers from buying the products.

Article Views Likelihood of Cabinet Reshuffle

BK1604024393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Apr 93 p 4

[By Soemsuk Kasitthipharadit]

[Text] How long will Prime Minister Chuan Likphai last? This is probably a four-million-dollar question which is haunting most seasoned political observers and Cabinet members alike. To them, the question is not whether but when the Prime Minister will reshuffle his Cabinet.

A Cabinet minister has reportedly said that a reshuffle would depend on whether the conflict among coalition partners will flare up again, and how serious it is.

The Democrat Party, which is the core party in the coalition, has held discussions among its core members over the recent "rebellion" by the Social Action Party (SAP).

SAP leader Montri Phongphanit did not hide his grudges against the Government when he accused it of being indecisive in tackling national problems recently. Other SAP members joined in the fray by hurling criticisms against the Government.

Such an open "rebellion" from a coalition partner had angered the Democrats. According to one Democrat source, a suggestion was made during one of the discussions that SAP should be ousted from the coalition.

The suggestion was rejected by the Prime Minister, who felt that the problem with SAP was not yet critical. He was optimistic that an understanding could be worked out with SAP so that a Cabinet shakeup could be avoided.

Nevertheless, the Prime Minister also hinted that any Cabinet changes would not occur before the House reconvenes next month.

One Democrat source said SAP's departure would have undesirable political repercussions for the Government, and the Prime Minister himself is not yet ready for such consequences.

One of the problems that need to be tackled if SAP is to be removed is which party or parties are to be brought in. SAP commands 22 seats in Parliament and there is not a single small party which controls as many seats. Those which have more seats are the Chat Thai and Chat Phatthana parties, but their inclusion into the new Cabinet may entail more problems for the existing alliance—and even lead to total realignment of the coalition lineup.

Informed sources said some Democrats had suggested that the New Aspiration Party be ousted along with SAP. But, for the time being, there seems to be no justification for such action which, if taken, might also upset the two other coalition partners, Phalang Tham and Solidarity.

One seasoned military observer says that now is the right time for Prime Minister Chuan to reshuffle the Cabinet to shore up his coalition's stability. The Government would remain at risk if the status quo is maintained, according to the observer.

A crucial test for the coalition's unity will take place next month when the whole Cabinet will face a censure debate in Parliament. The Democrats have a suspicion that they may be double- crossed by SAP.

"We are very concerned with the political developments. And in all circumstances, we cannot trust SAP," a senior Democrat confided recently.

Informed party sources said the Prime Minister is convinced that without SAP the Government is still able to ride out the Opposition's onslaught if the remaihin'g four coalition parties—with 186 votes in the 360-member House—can maintain their unity. But the five-vote margin is so narrow that several Democrats are beginning to worry about the outcome of the censure debate.

The five-party coalition now has 207 MPs under its control: 79 from the Democrat Party, 51 from the New Aspiration Party, 47 from the Phalang Tham Party, 22 from the Social Action Party, and eight from the Solidarity Party.

The Opposition commands 153 MPs.

Seasoned political observers doubt that the Government would be able to overcome the Opposition's censure debate unless it shores up its strength in the House before the debate. And this can be only done through a Cabinet reshuffle.

Vietnam

Reportage on U.S. Envoy's Visit, POW Document

Vessey Arrives, Discusses Document

BK1804053693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi, April 18 (AFP)—U.S. envoy John Vessey arrived here Sunday saying he would seek answers to "very serious questions" raised by a Soviet document suggesting that Hanoi witheld U.S. prisoners of war (POWs).

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai said the document was "a concoction and a fabrication" and pledged that Hanoi would provide the U.S. delegation full cooperation in investigating the document.

In that regard, Vessey was to meet Monday with General Tran Van Quang, identified as the author of the document unearthed by an Australian researcher in January in Russian archives, Vietnamese and U.S. officials said.

The document, which has derailed that normalization process between Hanoi and Washington, is reportedly a Russian translation of a 1972 report from Quang to the Communist Party leadership saying North Vietnam was holding 1,205 U.S. POWs—604 more than it freed the following year.

"The document found in Russian archives raises some very serious questions that I will address with you and I hope for some answers," Vessey told Mai.

"It is an authentic Russian document," he added, saying it had been authenticated by General Dimitriy Volkoganov, co-chairman of the U.S.-Russian joint missing-in-action (MIA)/POW commission.

"I think it existed somewhere—in the Russian text or in the American text—but not in Vietnamese," Mai replied.

"Past experience testifies that it is a concoction and a fabrication. Not only against Vietnam, but against normalization between Vietnam and the United States," he said.

Mai pointed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's claim last year that U.S. Vietnam War POWs had been transferred to the Soviet Union—a claim that was never authenticated.

Vessey, who has visited Vietnam several times since being appointed special presidential envoy for POW/MIA affairs, was to meet Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam later Sunday. His visit was to conclude Monday afternoon.

General Meets Vessey, Denies Document

BK1904045893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0444 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi, April 19 (AFP)—Vietnamese General Tran Van Quang on Monday denied that he was the author of a 1972 report on U.S. prisoners of war (POWs) that has derailed progress toward a normalization of ties between the two countries.

Quang said he told U.S. envoy John Vessey that from 1964 to 1973, he was commander of the B-4 front of the Tri-Thien-Hue military region in central Vietnam, not army deputy chief of staff as identified in the document.

"As I told John Vessey and as I told you, never in my life have I made such a report," Quang said. "It was beyond my responsibility."

Vessey met Quang on the second day of a two-day visit to Vietnam, a visit that Hanoi had hoped would be a prelude to a lifting of the longstanding U.S. economic embargo, reportedly under intensive review in Washington.

Instead, the visit has been overshadowed by a report one week ago that a document found in Russian archives suggested that Hanoi had killed or witheld several hundred U.S. POWs following the 1973 Paris peace accords.

The Russian-language document is allegedly the translation of a report from Quang to the Communist Party Politburo saying North Vietnam was holding 1,205 U.S. POWs in September 1972—604 more than were released the following year.

Vessey said upon arrival that the document had been verified as "an authentic Russian document," but Quang reiterated Hanoi's stand that it was a fake and that no Vietnamese original existed.

"The intelligence service that manufactured this report was a very bad intelligence service," he said, without specifying which one.

"I understand that there are a lot of people who are trying to undermine the process of normalization," said the retired general, who was wearing civilian clothes when he met Vessey, also a retired general.

Quang added that the document had caused "suspicion between the two peoples who desire normalization, not to mention suffering to the families of the MIAs," the 2,264 U.S. servicemen listed as missing-in-action in Southeast Asia.

Quang now heads the Vietnamese Veteran's Association. His official biography published in the association's December 1992 newsletter confirms that he was a regional commander in 1972.

Further on Meeting

BK1904055893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0537 GMT 19 Apr 93

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Excerpts] Hanoi, April 19 (AFP)—Vietnamese General Tran Van Quang denied Monday that he had authored a 1972 report on U.S. prisoners of war (POW) whose reported discovery in Russian archives has derailed U.S.-Vietnam normalization.

Quang said he told U.S. envoy John Vessey that from 1964 to 1973 he was commander of the B-4 front of the Tri-Thien-Hue military region in central Vietnam and not army deputy chief of staff as identified in the document. [passage omitted]

Quang did serve as deputy chief of staff from 1958 to 1961, and again from 1974 to 1978, according to the biography. He said he was in the former East Germany for medical treatment in 1973.

Now in semi-retirement as head of the Veteran's Association, Quang was wearing civilian clothes when he met Vessey, himself a retired U.S. general.

Vessey thanked Quang for the "useful information," but made no further public comment. Vessey was having talks Monday afternoon with Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh.

The U.S. envoy, who is accompanied by senior State and Defense Department officials, met for nearly five hours Sunday behind closed doors with Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and other officials.

He said afterwards that Hanoi had turned over "important information" that would "shed light on the so-called Russian document," but U.S. sources said Monday after reviewing the material that there was "nothing you could call proof" that the document was false.

The information included a list of U.S. prisoners in 1972, as well as other documents relating to the MIA/POW issue recovered in recent months, Vietnamese officials said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton was reportedly considering dropping the U.S. freeze on international loans to

Vietnam during a meeting late this month of the International Monetary Fund, where France and others have pledged to call for the move.

Vessey's visit, scheduled before the report of the document broke, was originally intended to reinforce U.S.-Vietnamese cooperation in accounting for MIAs and ensure that the cooperation would continue even if Washington lifted its economic embargo and granted diplomatic recognition to Hanoi, U.S. sources said.

Hanoi 'Ready To Discuss' Document

BK1904112793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] General John Vessey, the special envoy of the U.S. President, has arrived in Hanoi. He has held separate talks to Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai, who is in charge of the negotiations on the American servicemen missing in action in the Vietnam War, and Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

General Vessey said: The talks were very important and useful, and there appeared some progress in the settlement of the MIA issue. General Vessey said he has obtained important information that clearly proves the inaccuracy of the report last week from Russia that Vietnam was still retaining American prisoners. His assessment was in conformity with mass media opinion in the U.S.A. In its issue 15 April, THE NEW YORK TIMES remarks: It was common knowledge that the document on the MIA issue provided by Russia was fake. In this case, details of the American prisoners such as names and family backgrounds did not conform to the correct documents which have been written and translated in many languages.

Vietnam is ready to discuss this latest Russian document with General Vessey. On Sunday, Vietnamese authorities handed over its documents on the American servicemen missing in action to the special envoy. On Monday, General Vessey continues his talks with other Vietnamese (?officials) concerned. It is believed, during this visit General Vessey will collect good information to clarify the fabrication in the Russian document, and at the same time, appreciate Vietnam's good will and positive cooperation in solving this humanitarian issue.

Army Paper: Document 'Farce'

BK1904134793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Article from 18 April QUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "The POW/MIA Issue, Another Fabrication"]

[Text] At a time when the process to normalize relations between Vietnam and the United States has proceeded in a favorable manner, the U.S. paper THE NEW YORK TIMES on 12 April carried a report on the so-called top secret document found by a Havard University researcher in January 1993 at the Soviet Communist Party's archives in Moscow. This sensational report has prompted a number of rightwingers, newspapers, and television corporations in the United States to extensively fan up and embellish the issue. They said that this document was written by General Tran Van Quang, that the document revealed that Vietnam detained more than 1,205 U.S. soldiers, and that Vietnam might have killed as many as 600 U.S. POW's. Apparently, they hoped that this report would receive strong support from U.S. political circles and that those who spread the news would be awarded big prizes. Unfortunately, the result was to the contrary. U.S. Senator John Kerry, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on the POW/MIA Issue, after learning of the report made a statement on 12 April that this document must be carefully examined and analyzed, that the translation of the document from Vietnamese to Russian might show there was a mistake on the nationality of the POW's detained. Even THE NEW YORK TIMES said that according to the document, three U.S. astronauts were detained, but in reality there were no such astronauts listed as missing in the Vietnam war. Also, the paper pointed out that the names of a number of pilots were incorrectly spelled in translating the document from English into Vietnamese, then from Vietnamese into Russian, and finally from Russian into English. These names do not exist on the U.S. Government's list of those reportedly detained or missing in action.

The document also said that (Jim Castlo), who was arrested in a Hanoi's suburban area, was one of the U.S. pilots on the missing list. However, there is no such name as (Castlo) on the U.S. Government list. The French and Australian radio stations on 14 April reported that right after THE NEW YORK TIMES spread this sensational news, the U.S. Government showed restraint and did not rule out mistakes. U.S. newspapers including THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, the LOS ANGELES TIMES, and THE WASHINGTON POST have expressed doubt on the authenticity of the document and said that the 1,205 POW's mentioned by the document might include hundreds of POW's of the former Saigon puppet regime and other Asian soldiers who were classified by Vietnam in the same category as the U.S. POW's because they were allies of the United States. A number of U.S. newspapers also carried reports on a news conference held by Le Bang, Vietnamese ambassador to the United Nations, on the issue. These newspapers totally rejected the ill-intentioned report carried by THE NEW YORK TIMES and asserted that Vietnam had returned all U.S. POW's right after the signing of the Paris agreement in 1973, and that during the past 20 years, Vietnam has shown its goodwill and has closely cooperated with the United States in searching for remains of U.S. soldiers who died during the Vietnam war.

In a 15 April editorial, THE NEW YORK TIMES admitted that it is necessary to make a careful study of the Moscow document because it might be based on fake documents. Public opinion in the United States and other countries has exposed the wicked schemes of various U.S. and foreign forces who want to hinder and undermine development in the process of normalizing U.S.-SRV relations. These forces have deliberately spread groundless news on the POW/MIA issue.

A VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY correspondent in New York reported that during the past few days, U.S. newspapers have carried reports that more people have expressed doubt and have questioned the contents of the Russian document.

Mr. (Franklin), a specialist in U.S.-UK affairs and the Vietnam war said that the document was an awkward fabrication and that facts presented by the document did not conform with historical reality.

U.S. newspapers and public opinion have begun to criticize Stephen J. Morris, author of this farce, denouncing him as a partisan who fanatically opposes the normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam. Many other U.S. papers contend that whenever U.S.-Vietnam relations are improving, some hostile forces make public fake documents on the POW/MIA issue to poison the atmosphere with the aim of creating tension in the two countries' relations.

Again, this fake document carries groundless contents as in fake documents revealed in the past. It is possible that the document was produced and spread by the same hostile forces who oppose fine, normal relations between Vietnam and the United States.

SOC Premier Replies to Vo Van Kiet's Letter

BK1904112993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] On 8 April, Hun Sen, prime minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC], replied to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's 4 April letter conveyed to the former by the Vietnamese prime minister's envoy. In his letter, Prime Minister Hun Sen pointed out:

Democratic Kampuchea and its allies still pursue their dark schemes for sowing hatred among ethnic minorities and for undermining solidarity between the two neighboring countries. They have spared no effort in inciting confrontation or bloodshed between these two communities, thus causing difficulties for the State of Cambodia government. Their aims are to sever the long-standing traditional relations between our two peoples. Moreover, they are trying to undermine the general elections to be held in accordance with the Paris agreement. Nevetherless, I strongly believe that with the fine relations between our two governments and peoples, we will defeat all those dark schemes.

Prime Minister Hun Sen also pointed out the measures to be carried out by the Government of the State of Cambodia, such as efforts to strengthen national defense and block the Khmer Rouge from infiltrating into the areas under the control of the State of Cambodia in order to protect the Vietnamese residents and assist them to resettle in safer zones. Prime Minister Hun Sen indicated that he has given instructions to local authorities of various provinces to help Vietnamese residents, and that the government of the State of Cambodia is making contact with international organizations to seek help for the Vietnamese residents who have been forced to leave their homes.

Deputy Premier Visits Spratly Islands

BK1704063993 Hanoi VNA in English 0547 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17 - The Truong Sa (Spratly) islands and the continental shelf play a strategic role in the Vietnam's economy and defence, said Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong early this week.

He made the statement during an inspection tour of the archipelago and the economic, technical and service complex in Ba Ria-Vung Tau province, at the head of a government delegation.

Talking with soldiers, public employees and other inhabitants of Truong Sa, Mr Luong urged them to combine defence and economic activities in a planned the purpose is to ensure long-term development for the country and security and prosperity for the next genarations, he said.

Transport System Said To Need More Investment

BK1904063393 Hanoi VNA in English 0602 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 19—The rapid increase in the number of heavy transport means and a chronic shortage of investment capital for upgrading and maintaining roads and bridges are causing problems to the communications and transport service. It should take about 1,000 billion dong a year to maintain roads and bridges as against 70-80 billion dong collected as transport fees, VIETNAM NEWS quoted specialists as saying.

Bridges were, for the most part, designed for lorries of up to 30 tonnes, but more and more heavier vehicles including lumber vehicles of 40 to 120 tonnes are crossing the bridges. It is estimated that vehicles 30-40 percent heavier than what the bridges were designed for will reduce their durability by about 80 percent.

After issuing traffic regulations in 1982, the Ministry of Communications and Transport has taken more effective measures (?to) control heavy-duty trucks including spending of millions of dong in building trucks-weighing stations of main routes.

Danang Russian Consulate Completed

BK1704095693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] The Quang Nam-Danang House Building Joint Corporation recently held a function to hand over the

Russian Consulate General in Danang City. The successful completion of this project testifies to new progress and improvement in construction work made by the contingent of cadres and workers of the corporation. The corporation is now able to meet its clients' requirements and demands for modern construction.

$300 Million Earmarked for Infrastructure

BK1704072593 Hanoi VNA in English 0601 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17 - The prime minister has instructed the state bank to raise for loans to assist in infrastructure construction and intensive investment projects for production expansion. Eligible will be infrastructure construction projects in government plans and intensive investment projects undertaken by enterprises to renew equipment for higher productivity. The Vietnam Investment and Development Bank (VIDB) and the Vietnam Agriculture Bank (VAB) are the lenders. In the first quarter of the year, VAB and VIDB provided borrowers with 100 billion dong (roughly 10 million dollars). In the second quarter, 100 million dollars in cash will be available, said officials from the two lenders.

Vice Labor Minister Visits Philippines

BK1904064193 Hanoi VNA in English 0548 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 19—A delegation of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs led by its Deputy Minister Nguyen Thi Hang has visited the Philippines for exchange of experiences in unemployment settlement.

It has working sessions with the Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Philippines to inquire into the implementation and management of labour migration, technical training and other labour issues in the Philippines. The two sides established initial relations and cooperation in labour and social affairs.

Marshall Islands Foreign Minister Visits HCMC

BK1604144393 Hanoi VNA in English 1401 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 16—Foreign Minister Tom D. Kijiner of the Republic of Marshall Islands left Hanoi this afternoon for Ho Chi Minh City, [HCMC] continuing his official Vietnam visit from April 14. He was seen off at the government guest house by Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and other senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Departs 17 April

BK1704153593 Hanoi VNA in English 1354 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—Foreign Minister Tom. D. Kijiner of the Republic of Marshall Islands left Ho Chi Minh City today, concluding his official visit to Vietnam from April 14.

While in Ho Chi Minh City Mr. Kijiner and his entourage were cordially received by director of the city's Foreign Affairs Service Vu Hac Bong. The guests called on the leather goods, garment, textile, export-import company (legame), and visited some places of cultural and historical interest.

HCMC Police Issue Notice on Reactionaries

BK1804122993 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 24 Mar 93, p 1

["Notice of the Ho Chi Minh City's Public Security Force"]

[Text] Recently, a group of reactionaries have attempted to let off explosions; set fire to some public establishments, populated areas, and market places with an aim to create an artificial unstable situation in Ho Chi Minh City [HCMC]. However, the city's security forces have promptly discovered and stopped this scheme, arresting these reactionaries and confiscating their equipment.

We highly welcome the city people's efforts in closely coordinating with the security forces of Ho Chi Minh City during the past period.

We call on people of the city to heighten vigilance, together with the security forces of the city, to foil the reactionaries' acts of sabotage and spreading of fabrications, thereby helping to keep the peace in our city.

Australia

Evans Discusses Country's Role in Asia-Pacific

BK1504081393 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 14 Apr 93 p 23

[Exclusive interview With Foreign Minister Gareth Evens by Sydney correspondent Florence Chong on the 'Great Australian Transformation': "Turning Kangaroos Into Tigers"—place and date not given]

Q: Is Asia accepting Australia as part of Asia?

A: I think it is an evolutionary process (and) by no means a complete acceptance at the level of either business or community generally.

However, at the level of senior decision and policy-makers—both political and economic—I think there is a much better understanding now of Australia's role in the region.

It is often confusing to talk about Australia being part of Asia. I much prefer to say part of the region, part of the Asia-Pacific region part of the Western Pacific region engaged in Asia or sitting alongside Asia.

In geographical and demographic terms, it is difficult to argue that we will ever be "part of Asia". But it is not at all difficult to argue that we are an absolutely integrated part of the region. "Part of Asia" is just shorthand for a slightly more complex idea.

If you ask people in Australia if it is part of Asia, you will get a complicated response because the cultures and value systems are different. But if you ask them is it part of the region—the answer is very much yes.

It is as a result of a very deliberate effort we have made to reposition ourselves in the region—specific policy initiatives (such as) Apec (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), Cambodia, the efforts to solve problems with Indonesia and other countries as they arise.

Q: Do you think Asia understands Australia better now?

A: We think so. (But) I don't want to exaggerate because I think it is an evolutionary process. I think we still have some distance to go before some of the stereotype (image) about us go away.

The discussion we are now having in Australia on the republic issue, the flag and so on is helpful in reinforcing the point. The Prime Minister's (Paul Keating) speech on the night of the election is very important in reinforcing the point that this is not rhetorics and that we really are serious about engaging with Asia; about building our future in this part of the world, not wistfully, not regretfully and not looking back our shoulders on what it might be with Europe and America, but looking forward with genuine enthusiasm, real commitment to future years—not just economically, but politically and culturally in terms of human contact as well.

As a government I think we are bringing public opinion along with us—the atmosphere, the press and community. It is very different from what it was a decade ago. People understand what we are doing and this is one small factor in our re-election. Certainly it was no handicap to us having the vision.

When the people in the region look at the Labor government, they saw a future and (when they look at Dr John) Hewson and the Liberals they saw only the past.

I think some sense of this came through and affected the way in which the electorate reacted in the last campaign. I am not pretending it is the major issue, but it was part of a total pattern of response.

All of this was noticed in the region—in some places more than others and generally it is at the more senior level where most of the impact has been made.

Q: Cambodia was one of Australia's most notable achievements in the region. Will similar situations arise to involve Australia?

A: We are not out there looking for things to do. We are steadily developing our relationship.

Australia will want to have a voice in some important issues in the region and it may have something to contribute like regional security and developing processes that will better guarantee a common security. (We will be involved) in the evolution of economic dialogue in the future shape of agenda for Apec, an issue which the region is intensely interested in and which Australia expects to have a major constructive voice. But I don't see any particular things like Cambodia lying around.

Q: Recent discussions on rearming of China seem to cause some concern in the region. Has the issue been raised with Australia?

A: The whole question of China's role in the region is often a lively subject for discussion around the region . . . But it does make the point that we really do need to develop further processes of confidence-building, of dialogue and of transparency to help alleviate concerns about longer-term security issues.

Q: Does Australia feel that it will require closer participation with ASEAN?

A: We have formal dialogue status in ASEAN's annual meeting. In addition, of course, we are constantly talking to ASEAN on a myriad of issues both at ministerial and at an official level. It reflects the seriousness of the relationship. If we take a snapshot of five-yearly intervals, it is remarkable how much more open discussion there is now of these security issues compared to a few short years ago.

Q: Prime Minister Paul Keating has spoken about the development of an integrated regional market within Apec members. How will it evolve?

A: It is about Apec trade and the trade facilitation agenda. We are talking simply about a series of strategies designed to bring trading nations of the region more closely and efficiently together and . . .to create a greater degree of economic interdependence.

Q: What is your personal relationships with Asian ministers?

A: I have many good friends in the region. A lot does depend on building layers of relationship and getting to a point when . . . you can just as easily pick up the telephone to discuss some difficult issue with a colleague in the region as you would with your own ministerial colleagues here in Canberra.

I do it, but I don't overdo. I am not on the phone every week. In the last week I had a conversation with Ali Alatas (Indonesia's Foreign Minister) about a whole range of issues and with Malaysia's Foreign Minister Badawi (Abdullah Ahmad Badawi). It is an easy and comfortable thing for all of us now to do and that is the important thing.

Q: Is Australia's relationship with Singapore closer today than 10 years ago?

A: I think we are closer. Ten years ago we have the Commonwealth connection, history and language and substantial trading relationship and of course the defence cooperation with Singapore and Malaysia through the Five Power Defence arrangements.

Now we have a very much closer and more substantial political and economic dialogue. It is not just a matter of more trade and investment, it is a much closer working partnership.

We have cooperated particularly closely with Singapore on issues like the development of Apec and also in the thinking that goes on in regional defence and security issues.

The relationship has been consolidated by the good personal relations between a number of ministers, in my case particularly with (Singapore Foreign Minister) Wong Kan Seng and (Deputy Prime Minister) BG [Brigadier General] Lee (Hsien Loong).

Also I think Paul Keating's visit was very successful in establishing a good relationship with (Singapore Prime Minister) Goh Chok Tong.

There are many Australian ministers who have benefited from the Senior Minister's (Mr Lee Kuan Yew) wit as well over the years. He has always been a frank and forthright interlocker and we've enjoyed a relationship there.

Q: Are there areas where Singapore and Australia can cooperate better?

A: There is a large Singapore investment in Australia particularly in property. I think some fingers got burned when the property prices collapse here as in many other places. What we are most anxious to do now is to encourage Singapore to invest in productive enterprises particularly in high-technology and value-added end of the spectrum.

Q: How far has Singapore gone in negotiations for training facilities for its armed services in Australia?

A: There have been some discussions about utilisation of aircraft strips and terrain in northern Western Australia where we have a huge amount of countryside.

Singapore is a very small country for the exercising of its pilots and land terrain (in Australia) it is helpful perhaps for them to have access to this part of the world. I am not sure how close to agreement that matter is.

(Early this month, Singapore became the first Asian nation to have a permanent military base in Australia when it signed an agreement to establish an air force flying school at Pearce, near Perth. About 250 Republic of Singapore Air Force members and 30 aircraft will be based at the school when it becomes fully operational next year. Singapore is also believed to be inquiring about access to other areas for army training.

Census Shows Population Increases 8 Percent

BK1504080093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Australia's population grew by 8 percent between 1986 and 1991. It became older and children made up a smaller proportion of the total. (Luke Lorlup) reports details out today put Australia's population on census night at 16,850,540.

[Begin (Lorlup) recording] The medium age of Australian men is 31, compared with 30 in 1986. For women it is 33 compared with 31 four years ago. The proportion of people aged over 65 has risen from 10.6 percent to 11.3. The proportion of people aged under 15 has fallen from 23.3 percent to 22.3. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people increased by 16 percent to almost 240,000. The proportion of people born overseas increased from just under 21 percent to just over 22 percent. [end recording]

Further on Census Data

BK1504080693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0708 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By Jack Taylor]

[Text] Sydney, April 15 (AFP)—While Australia has been striving for closer economic integration with Asia, new census data released Thursday shows it has also significantly increased its Asian population.

The figures show the percentage of Asian-born migrants has almost doubled from 370,149 or 2.5 percent of the population in 1981 to 687,350 or 4.1 percent on August 6 1991 when the latest census was completed.

The most dramatic increase was in the indigenous Aboriginal population, which increased by 16.6 percent since the last census in 1986 to a total of 265,000 in 1991.

However, officials of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, (ABS) which released the data, said the major factor was an increased willingness of Aborigines to identify themselves as such.

"While there has been a natural increase in the Aboriginal population, it is not as much as the figures would suggest," said ABS official David Williams.

"Recent trends suggest procedures for enumerating the Aborginal population have improved while they have perhaps shown an increased willingness to identify themselves as being Aboriginal."

The census shows Australia's migrant community totalled 3,755,554 or 22.3 percent in 1991 compared with 3,247,381 or 20.8 percent in 1986.

Of those born overseas 61.3 percent were from Europe or the former Soviet Union compared to 68.4 percent in 1986, while the 18.3 percent from Asia compared with 12.7 percent in 1986.

Another 7.1 percent were from the Middle East and Africa, which was the same percentage as in 1986, the data showed.

Williams said the biggest rise was in the Vietnamese community which had increased threefold from 41,097 in 1981 to 122,304 in 1991.

They were followed by 78,890 from mainland China, 73,443 from the Philippines, 72,459 Malaysians, 61,230 Indians and 58,933 Hong Kong Chinese.

The population of Hong Kong Chinese had almost quadrupled from 15,781 in 1981, William said.

The census also showed Australia's total population had increased in five years by eight percent or 1,248,384 people to 16,850,540 people in August, 1991. Women outnumbered the men by almost 125,000.

The figures confirmed what had been evident for some time: that the population is ageing.

The median age in 1991 was 31 for men (a year older than in 1986) and 33 for women (two years older), while the proportion of over 65's had risen from 10.6 percent in 1986 to 11.3 percent in 1991 (a total of 1,907,156 people).

There were 3,764,499 children (under 15), which represented a decrease from 23.3 percent of the population in 1986 to 22.3 percent in 1991.

Clerks, representing 15 percent of the working population, made up the largest occupational group, followed by salespeople who made up 13.8 percent and tradespeople at 13.5 percent.

More than 4.4 million people (62 percent of the workforce) drive their own cars to work while only 10.3 percent take public transport.

The census also provided conflicting evidence about an Australian claim, popularised by a famous novel, to have become "the clever country".

In 1991, 12.8 percent had university degrees or higher qualifications compared to 8.6 percent in 1986. Another 13.5 percent had trade qualifications against 9.8 percent in 1986.

But the number of people over 15 with no post-school qualifications had also risen from 60.2 percent of the population in 1986 to 61.1 percent in 1991.

New Zealand

Overseas Debt Climbs to NZ$67 Billion

BK0604052893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0053 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Wellington, April 6 (AFP)—New Zealand's total overseas debt climbed to 67 billion N.Z. dollars (35 billion U.S. dollars) last December 31, the Statistics Department said in a statement Tuesday.

The debt was slightly less than money market expectations.

It was up from 64.7 billion dollars (34.2 billion dollars) in September, with the increase due entirely to an extension of the debt figures to include four billion dollars (2.1 billion dollars) worth of debt issued domestically by companies and state-owned enterprises.

The department said the total overseas debt was up from the December 1991 figure of 63.2 billion dollars (33.4 billion dollars), which did not include debt issued domestically by companies.

GDP Growth Shows Slow Recovery Continues

BK1504013293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0124 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Wellington, April 15 (AFP)—New Zealand's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 1.5 percent in the last three months of 1992, the Statistics Department reported Thursday.

The rise over the third quarter reflected increased output in all sectors of the economy except agriculture.

GDP at the end of the quarter was three percent higher than in the corresponding period of 1991.

The department said the average level of economic activity throughout last year was 2.2 percent higher than in 1991.

New Zealand has experienced virtually continuous recession since around 1985.

The department said the new figures reinforced a view that a slow economic recovery started in late 1991, led by growth in output by manufacturing and primary industries.

GDP rose 0.7 percent and 1.7 percent in the June and March quarters of 1992 respectively.

Finance Minister Ruth Richardson said the figures showed the continuing growth momentum in the economy which started in mid-1991.

"Nearly all sectors of the economy grew in December. This means growth is becoming increasingly more widespread," she said in a statement.

Opposition Labour Party finance spokesman Michael Cullen however said annual growth was only 2.2 percent, the same rate as two and a half years ago, when the ruling National Party government was elected.

"This 2.2 percent growth rate compares with Richardsons's forecast last year of 4.1 percent," he said.